

## Voting a test for French government

PARIS (AP) — Voters cast ballots Sunday in the second round of local elections expected to consolidate the conservatives' grip on powerful district councils and comfort the government of Premier Jacques Chirac. Voter turnout was nearly 48 per cent at 5 p.m., with polls closing between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. in various districts, the interior ministry said. Total turnout for last week's first round was a respectable 60 per cent. The 14.7 million eligible voters were choosing 1,372 local councillors in France and its overseas departments in runoff balloting that could see several upsets. The elections were the first major test of voter sentiment since Mr. Chirac took office a year ago following a landslide victory over the Socialists in a parliamentary vote. The first round, which gave the conservatives 44.6 per cent, was a morale booster for the government, beleaguered by student protests and unable to cap a climbing unemployment rate, now at 12.2 per cent. The Socialists, still recovering from their debacle in legislative elections, also found comfort in their 22.5 per cent score last week.

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## Malaysian sultan ends visit

AQABA (Petra) — Sultan Azlan Muhebbuddin Shah of Malaysia Sunday morning left Aqaba on the conclusion of a four-day visit to Jordan during which the Malaysian leader met with His Majesty King Hussein for talks on Jordanian-Malaysian ties. Sultan Azlan and the accompanying delegation were seen off at Aqaba airport by Chief Chamberlain Prince Rad Ben Zeid, Princess Majida, the governor of Maan, the Aqaba district governor, the Malaysian ambassador to Jordan and other senior officials. While in Jordan, Sultan Azlan and the accompanying delegation visited several touristic attractions in Jordan.

## Top Mafia suspect arrested in Sicily

DESENZANO DEL GARDA (R) — Police arrested one of Italy's most wanted mafia suspects on Sunday as he soaked up the sunshine on Lake Garda. Aldo Ercolano, 34, was arrested while holidaying in this lakeside resort after 15 months on the run, police said. He is believed to have succeeded his uncle Benedetto "Nitto" Santapaola as one of Sicily's most powerful mafia clan leaders after Mr. Santapaola's arrest last May. The young boss, whose territory included the eastern Sicilian cities of Catania and Siracusa, had been on the run since December 1992, when he was charged with mafia association. Mr. Santapaola, whom police believe had taken in the arrest of his nephew Salvatore "Toto" Rina in January 1993, was arrested in a lonely farmhouse in a vineyard in eastern Sicily. Police suspect that Mr. Santapaola, who had been on the run for more than a decade, played a leading role in the killings of anti-mafia judges Giovanni Falcone and Paolo Borsellino in 1992.

## Bhutto acquitted of misusing funds

LAHORE (R) — A court cleared Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on Saturday of misusing secret service funds in her fifth acquittal of charges used to sack her in 1990. Special court Judge Munir Sheikh announced the verdict in a secret session. Ms. Bhutto's lawyer Aitzaz Ahsan said the court dismissed the charge "on merit" but did not elaborate. A day earlier the court acquitted Ms. Bhutto of misusing an air force transport plane four and half years ago during her first period in office.

## Alabama tornado kills 17, injures 90

PIEDMONT, Alabama (AP) — A tornado struck a church during a Palm Sunday service, killing 17 people and injuring at least 90. The roof at Goshen Methodist Church, north of this Alabama town, collapsed at midday, state police trooper Byron Morris said. Officers estimated 140 people were in the church. The same storm front also heavily damaged Ten Island Baptist Church nearby and injured an undetermined number of people. Calhoun County Sheriff's dispatcher Leon Hill said. Workers were trying to reach victims using cranes and other equipment. Authorities said other churches were also damaged. "This is one of the worst ones I've seen, one of the worst ones this century," said Joe Wheeler, a meteorologist.

## EU approves Mostar administrator

IOANNINA, Greece (R) — The European Union (EU) approved German Deputy Hans Koschick as its administrator for the war-torn Bosnian city of Mostar, Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias said on Sunday. Speaking after a two-day informal EU foreign ministers' meeting, he said Mr. Koschick, a Social Democrat (SDP) deputy, had been approved unanimously. He will be officially appointed at a formal foreign ministers' meeting in Luxembourg on April 18.

## Arab League meeting ends without accord on key issues

CAIRO (Agencies) — For the first time in its history, the Arab League on Sunday ended its foreign ministers' meeting without being able to agree on major issues.

The 22-member organisation wound up a two-day meeting by postponing decisions on resolutions about Arab solidarity, security, the boycott against Israel and changing the voting rules to make the league more effective in making decisions.

Almost since the league's founding in 1945 by seven Arab countries, solidarity against Israel has probably been the only common factor. But a league source told the Associated Press the attendees could not agree on a common plan for Arab security because of different views on which countries constitutes a threat, leaving each Arab state with its own definition of the enemy.

In its 101st meeting, the Arab League Council did confirm an earlier decision urging Israel to withdraw from all occupied territories. It also reaffirmed support for Israel-Palestine Organisation (PLO) peace talks, while calling for pressure on Israel to accept international protection for Palestinians.

The league always had trouble making decisions because its charter calls for deciding everything by consensus. But the problem has worsened because of Egypt's separate peace with Israel, disputes between Arab countries

and the 1990 Gulf crisis triggered when Iraq invaded Kuwait. Among the resolutions the league failed to consider was one calling for majority rule to facilitate decision-making.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said the league "is a reflection of the general Arab situation, and since nobody could be satisfied with the present Arab position, we cannot be satisfied with common Arab action."

Oil-rich Gulf countries such as Kuwait, Qatar and Oman argue that since Arabs are negotiating with Israel, it is meaningless to maintain the boycott at its secondary level which bans dealing with foreign companies that trade with the Jewish state.

Omani Foreign Minister Yusuf Ben Alawi told reporters that dealing with such companies "should be left to the requirements of development in each country because Western and American companies offer services to Arab countries."

The United States has pressed Arab countries to partially lift the boycott and warned of legal action against companies that remain committed to the boycott.

But countries like Syria still oppose any lifting of the boycott until Israel withdraws from all lands it occupied in the 1967 Middle East War.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Shara said Sunday after meeting Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak that the

boycott "is a legitimate act... as a result of Israel's occupation of Arab land and it should remain so until occupation ends."

Mr. Shara, meanwhile, denied reports that Syria has accepted a U.S. invitation to resume negotiations with Israel next month in Washington.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Bouez added his voice to those who say it would be a mistake for the Arabs to abandon the boycott of Israel now because of its importance as a bargaining chip in negotiations with the Jewish state.

"Some Arab states, including Lebanon, believe that abolishing the boycott now, especially during negotiations, is like throwing away a basic card, as well as being something unnatural," Mr. Bouez told Reuters Saturday.

"Why anticipate events and put this to discussion in an artificial manner?" he asked. "The contacts which took place yesterday, my meeting with Amr Musa, could lead to postponing discussion of this subject to avoid Arab divisions which the Arab League can do without."

The Arab League secretariat informed the ministers of U.S. and German requests that the secondary boycott be lifted but the ministers decided simply to ignore them.

In Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, experts from foreign and interior ministries of Gulf Arab

(Continued on page 2)

## PLO says Israel making Hebron security deal difficult

TUNIS (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said on Sunday Israel was complicating matters on a search for a solution to security in Hebron before the long-delayed self-rule talks can resume.

"What is going on the ground with the Israeli army and settlers' behaviour complicates the situation very much and makes it difficult to reach any agreement," PLO Executive Committee member Mahmoud Abbas told Reuters.

"The more we near a breakthrough, the more they are creating difficulties," Mr. Abbas added in advance of a planned resumption on Tuesday of talks in Cairo to work out a security agreement for Hebron.

The PLO, as a condition to resuming the main self-rule talks for Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho, demanded special security arrangements in Hebron after a Jewish settler gunned down dozens of Muslim worshippers at a mosque there last month.

The PLO and Israel have agreed that an accord on security for Hebron could be signed on Tuesday.

Th accord could be signed when the two sides reconvene on Tuesday morning in Cairo if the final details are ironed out in time, said the PLO's chief negotiator Nabil Shaath.

"As soon as this accord is signed, the negotiations on launching autonomy in Gaza and Jericho will resume immediately," after a month-long suspension because of the Hebron massacre, he told AFP.

Dr. Shaath said the agreement would cover the deployment of Palestinian police and Norwegian observers in the town.

The Israeli government will "commit itself to adopt measures to prevent friction" between the 450 settlers and 120,000 Palestinians of Hebron, he added.

Dr. Shaath confirmed earlier reports from Israel that the key outstanding issue was the number of police and observers to be posted in the town.

The police will be posted at fixed points around Hebron to guard schools, hospitals and the university, he said. Joint Israeli-Palestinian units would patrol the town.

He implicitly acknowledged that the Israeli army would have the final word on security, saying "the situation in Hebron will be different from Gaza and Jericho," where autonomy is to be launched.

As for the autonomy negotiations, a final accord on the launch will be signed by April 13, the original date of which the Israeli army was to have pulled out of Gaza and Jericho, said Dr. Shaath.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said earlier that he hoped the autonomy talks would resume on Tuesday along with a final session on the security arrangements for Hebron.

A senior PLO official told Reuters the PLO has demanded that forces from Egypt and unnamed other countries join Norwegian forces in Hebron. Norway has already announced it would send observers if the two parties agreed.

## Sfeir demands 'truth' behind church blast, criticises media restriction

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's Maronite Christian patriarch called on Sunday for the truth behind a Feb. 27 church bombing and said a related ban on private news broadcasts, if permanent, would spell the end of the country.

In a step that could increase charges of a clampdown on media freedom, Beirut Radio said officials planned to prosecute two newspapers for publishing "false reports" on the investigations into the bombing, which killed 11 worshippers.

Patriarch Nasrallah Boutros Sfeir, speaking as Christians celebrated Palm Sunday in a sombre mood, said authorities should prove in the courts allegations that Christians planted the bomb in the Church of Our Lady of Deliverance near Beirut.

"We ask God to give... the courage of the heart to the officials to reveal the truth, the whole truth, regarding the bomb," Patriarch Sfeir said at Sunday mass sermon at his church in Bkirki north of Beirut.

"If it was proved by a judicial sentence that those who did this ugly deed were Christians, it would not make all Christians guilty but it would be something that would make us all (feel) ashamed and saddened," he added.

Hundreds of Lebanese troops tightened security around churches across the country four weeks after the bomb exploded in the port of Jounieh, in Lebanon's Christian heartland.

Soldiers in green military fatigues, rubbing shoulders with children dressed in white and carrying candles, searched worshippers flocking to churches.

The government last week dissolved the Lebanese Forces (LF) party, Lebanon's largest rightist militia in the 1975-1990 civil war, after a judge charged eight of its members with carrying out the bombing.

Official sources said army units, continuing a crackdown on the former militia, seized two truck loads of weapons

from former militia caches. The government also banned private television and radio stations from airing news bulletins and political programmes.

Beirut radio said the general prosecutor would begin on Monday a legal process to prosecute Al Safir and Al Diyar dailies for publishing untrue information related to the church bombing.

Patriarch Sfeir echoed fears that the ban on private news would be lengthy.

"There are those who fear that, amid the stalling, the temporary measure would become a permanent one and we ask God that this would not happen," he said.

"If it happens then he who takes such a permanent measure would be ending Lebanon and crossing it out of the map."

Information Minister Michel Samaha said the ban was temporary because of "delicate and extraordinary" circumstances in the country.



Catholic monks wave olive branches during the Palm Sunday march on the Mount of Olives overlooking Jerusalem (AFP photo)

## Christians mark Palm Sunday in Jerusalem amid high tension

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Waving olive and palm branches and singing hymns, thousands of Christian pilgrims from around the world marched down the slopes of the Mount of Olives to mark Palm Sunday.

Palm Sunday, the start of Easter week, commemorates Jesus' entry to Jerusalem when the multitudes proclaiming him king laid palm branches before him.

The procession snaked from the Mount of Olives into the walled Old city amid tight security. Paramilitary border police with submachine guns accompanied the pilgrims on foot, and several jeeps were stationed at points along the route.

Israeli security forces are on high alert, fearing revenge attacks by Palestinians for the Feb. 25 Hebron mosque massacre carried out by a Jewish settler. Security officials have been warned that assailants might strike during the eight-day Jewish Passover holiday which began Saturday.

Despite the tensions, Israel was geared for a record tourism year. Two million visitors came to the Holy Land in 1993, up a third from 1992.

Israelis marked Passover dinner Saturday commemorating the Jews' liberation from slavery while security forces stepped up patrols.

Troops at roadblocks enforced a tight closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, barring the Palestinians living there from entering Israel during eight-day holiday.

The blanket closure was imposed after the Feb. 25 massacre.

Security officials have received warnings that Palestinians plan to launch revenge attacks during the Passover holiday, a time for trips, picnics and family outings.

Police commissioner Rafi Peled said thousands of police and civil guard volunteers would patrol during the holiday, especially near synagogues.

He said Israelis should not be discouraged from travelling. "I would not suggest going to Hebron or Ramallah. But there is no problem within the borders of Israel," he was quoted as saying by the Jerusalem Post daily.

The ceremonial Passover meal, or "seder," is accompanied by prayers in the form of questions and answers that recount the story of the exodus of the ancient Israelites from Egypt.

During Passover, Jews may not eat anything that leavens, such as yeast. Bread is replaced by matzah, a dry cracker that symbolises the wandering of the Israelites in the desert after their departure from Egypt.

Unknown assailants shot and seriously wounded an Israeli officer on patrol in the occupied Gaza Strip on Saturday evening, Arab sources and Israel Radio said.

Palestinian sources said the attack was carried out by the Hamas Islamic Resistance Movement in Gaza City.

Hamas has vowed to avenge last month's Hebron mosque massacre and to wreck peace talks between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Twenty-seven Palestinians were shot and wounded in clashes across the occupied territories on Saturday.

The army said troops seized weapons from Jewish settlers following skirmishes at the holy site in Hebron where dozens of worshippers were massacred last month.

The guerrillas said there was an unspecified number of casualties among SLA ranks.

Hizbollah has stepped up its anti-Israeli and anti-SLA attacks in recent weeks. On Friday the guerrillas killed three SLA militiamen in South Lebanon.

## Israeli artillery pounds Lebanese villages

MARIYOUN (Agencies) — Israeli artillery, tanks and helicopter gunships blasted Lebanese villages Sunday after two hit-and-run raids in South Lebanon, security sources said.

A guerrilla squad mounted a 30-minute attack at dawn on an outpost manned by the South Lebanon Army (SLA). Israel's surrogate militia, with rocket-propelled and hand grenades, the sources said.

The SLA garrison at the hilltop Talloussah village responded with machinegun fire, forcing the raiders to retreat from the central sector of an enclave Israel occupies as a "security zone" in South Lebanon, the sources said.

The SLA command in Marjayoun, provincial capital of the zone, said at least three guerrillas were killed and two wounded during the clash but no SLA or civilian casualties were reported.

Later in the day, guerrillas detonated a remote-controlled roadside bomb on the road to Talloussah wounding two SLA militiamen, according to the command.

A spokesman for the Hizbollah group said in a telephone call with the Associated Press that the party's military wing "carried out two attacks against the SLA Talloussah position."

Hizbollah said that commandos destroyed fortifications in Talloussah and were in "full control" of the position.

The guerrillas said there was an unspecified number of casualties among SLA ranks.

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## Kurdish conflict clouds Turkish municipal polls

ANKARA (Agencies) — Turkey, in the throes of economic crisis and a Kurdish revolt, held municipal elections on Sunday in what has become a survival test for Prime Minister Tansu Ciller's shaky coalition government.

About 32 million voters were choosing mayors and local councils in the local elections, held every five years.

Ms. Ciller, Turkey's first woman premier, has sworn to crush the outlawed Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), but voters may punish her for this year's economic collapse which has wrecked business confidence and left the government scrambling to pay its bills.

The lira has lost a third of its dollar value, interest rates have shot up and industry has hit the brakes. Turkey's foreign credit rating has slipped twice in three months.

The PKK marked polling day with a bomb attack outside one of Istanbul's best-known landmarks, the former Byzantine cathedral of Hagia Sophia, wounding three European tourists.

Police said a German man had been badly hurt in the blast in the garden of the sixteenth-century church, now a museum. A Dutchman and a Spanish woman were slightly injured and left hospital.

A hospital doctor said the 38-year-old German had been hit in one eye and it was not clear if he would lose use of it.

The PKK, whose separatist war has cost 11,000 lives since 1984, claimed responsibility. Turkey's lucrative tourism sector lost more than \$1 billion due to PKK attacks last year.

In the mainly Kurdish south-east, officials said polling had gone ahead despite a PKK call for a boycott and the absence of the only legal Kurdish-based party, the Democracy Party,

which quit the campaign last month, citing intimidation.

Officials said troops had killed 77 PKK rebels in the past three days in several provinces. Two soldiers were also killed.

Two landmine blasts blamed on the PKK killed five civilians and two soldiers on Sunday and a grenade attack in the provincial capital Diyarbakir wounded two policemen.

Wounded survivors said a Turkish air raid killed 14 people and injured many in Kocakli village in Sirnak province on Saturday.

Elsewhere in Turkey, nine people have been killed and 34 wounded in election-related fights or attacks since Thursday.

Voters were electing more than 83,000 local politicians as mayors, provincial assembly members, city council members, village headmen and neighbourhood representatives. They were choosing from 13 parties.

State and private television stations planned to start announcing early results Sunday night, with voting trends expected early Monday and unofficial results Tuesday.

The polls have no legal bearing on Ms. Ciller's coalition government, and the next general election is not scheduled until 1996.

But opposition parties have treated the race as a referendum on Ms. Ciller's performance. Critics hold her responsible for the country's deteriorating economy and have called for early elections.

Ms. Ciller, 48, became prime minister after winning the True Path Party's leadership in June.

Ms. Ciller said she would not step down under any condition, but would continue her fight against separatist violence



Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller casts her vote in Sunday's municipal elections. The ballot had been flagged as determining the future of Ciller's centre-right coalition (AFP photo)

and economic ills. "Turkey cannot afford an interruption of our policies with another election fever," she said.

Ms. Ciller concentrated her

**TODAY**  
KLM starts its daily flights to Amsterdam.  
(See page 11)

## American pullout marked limits for Somali relief

By Terry Leonard  
The Associated Press

MOGADISHU — The American flag fluttered above a Marine amphibious assault vehicle that withdrew into the sea, lolling like a drunken whale in the surf and pattered slowly back to its ship.

It was the unceremonious end of a mission that began in hope and ended in disillusion. There are lessons to be learned from Somalia regarding the U.S. role in U.N. peacekeeping and the use of force to provide humanitarian relief.

Washington has time for study and debate. In Somalia, the clock is running down. American troops, who once numbered more than 26,000 here, were more than the backbone of the U.N. force. They were the symbol of its resolve. President Bill Clinton's order for them to withdraw was followed by similar orders from other Western capitals.

When the last American Marines pulled out Friday they drew the line on how much the richest countries in the world are willing to do for Somalia. Former President George Bush ordered 1,800 Marines ashore on Dec. 9, 1992, as the vanguard of a multinational force to ensure that emergency food supplies got through to the starving.

At least 350,000 Somalis died in the famine that followed civil war and anarchy. Up to 1,000 a day were still dying when the Marines stormed ashore.

"We are grateful because we remember and will not forget that 250,000 children died in the famine and now they are not dying," Staffan de Mistura, the Somali director for the U.N. Children's Fund, said as he watched the last American troops depart.

"They turned a page and in turning the page, we hope the Americans do not forget Somalia."

The mission was never without danger. On Jan. 12, 1993, just over a month after the Americans arrived, Marine Domingo Arroyo, 23, was shot dead by Somali gunmen in an attack near Mogadishu's airport. He was the first American serviceman to die in Somalia. In all, 44 Americans would die, 30 in combat.

There had been warnings. In a December 1992 diplomatic cable, Smith Hempstone, then the U.S. ambassador to neighboring Kenya, advised Mr. Bush "not to embrace the Somali tarbaby." He said Somalia should be left to its own devices even though famine still threatened two million people.

"They will lay ambushes. They will launch hit-and-run attacks. They will not be able to stop the (humanitarian) convoys from getting through. But they will inflict — and take — casualties," Mr. Hempstone advised.

Somali militias could not stop the convoys. The famine, already waning by the time the Americans arrived, was over by late spring of 1993 and the Americans turned the mission over to the United Nations in May of that year.

But Somalis did lie in ambush. And they did take and inflict casualties.

On June 5, militiamen loyal to warlord General Mohammed Farah Aided killed 24 Pakistani soldiers and wounded 54. That ambush led to reprisals, retaliation and four months of urban guerrilla warfare.

Looking back to December, Robert Oakley, Mr. Clinton's special envoy to Somalia, said U.N. forces had violated "the first axiom of peacekeeping — don't make enemies."

They did not try to. But the U.N. mission crept into nation-building, and that infringed on the ambitions of warlords and upset their precarious balance of power.

So far, the United Nations said 102 peacekeepers have been killed in Somalia. No one knows how many Somalis have been killed, but last January Gen. Aided claimed the United Nations had killed 13,000.

For Americans the end came with a fierce Oct. 3-4 battle that left 18 dead and 83 wounded. The body of one dead American was dragged through Mogadishu at the end of a rope as Gen. Aided's supporters laughed, cheered and stomped on it. Horrified Americans saw the image on television along with pictures of a frightened and injured American helicopter pilot shot down and captured by Somalis.

American resolve snapped. Within days of the battle Mr. Clinton ordered the troops to leave by March 31. The Italians, Belgians, Germans, French and Swedes quickly announced their own departure dates. Now Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates also have since called it quits.

Pakistan, which has the largest remaining contingent, is wavering.

Major General Thomas R. Montgomery, the American commander, told reporters he was confident the United Nations can continue its mission in Somalia.

"I think absolutely nothing will happen here. We are leaving. But I think the coalition forces are absolutely capable," said Gen. Montgomery.

The United States, he said, will remain involved in Somalia in diplomatic and humanitarian ways. And he noted that Somali faction leaders had signed a peace agreement in Nairobi.



Somali women sing and dance during a demonstration on Sunday organised by the party of warlord Mohammed Farah Aided to mark the signing of a Somali peace accord in Nairobi, Kenya, on Thursday (AFP photo)

signing of a Somali peace accord in Nairobi, Kenya, on Thursday (AFP photo)

## Kuwait to resume arms buying under MPs' eyes

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait, one of the world's big spenders on weapons, is set to resume arms purchases under the unaccustomed glare of parliamentary scrutiny following an eight-month political tussle over control of defence spending.

Members of Parliament (MPs) say a bill they passed on March 22 gives the opposition-dominated National Assembly authority to examine hitherto secret allocations for major arms and military training programmes.

The move is a boost for arms makers, signalling the end of an eight-month informal freeze on procurement and the resumption of a 3.5 billion dinar (\$11.7 billion) rearmament programme.

But it also means increased legislative oversight of an arms purchase process attacked as extravagant, secretive and occasionally corrupt by MPs campaigning for increased fiscal accountability and open government.

Major weapons purchases for the small Gulf state's 13,000-strong military have hitherto been off-budget.

"The bill allows the Defence Ministry to get on with providing for the defence of the country and with planning for all the armed services," said an arms industry executive.

Kuwait has been the world's biggest spender on defence in per capita terms and as a percentage of national wealth since its 1991 liberation from Iraqi occupation, when its military plant and equipment was looted or destroyed, according to the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies.

The bill has gone for approval.

at to the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, a process that normally lasts a few weeks.

The defence bill was approved by parliament in secret session and has not yet been published.

But MPs say it approves in principle a 3.5 billion dinar programme of spending between 1992 and 2004 and requires the government to submit to parliament each year broad plans stating how much of the total it plans to use.

The bill means that the government can't go and spend the money all at once, the diplomat said. "They have to eke it out over the 12 years. How they'll do that and what their priorities will be, we don't yet know," he said.

Salesmen say that since arms ordered now can take years to be installed, most of the money ought to be spent soon if weapons are meant to be operational by 2004.

Diplomats say it is doubtful the assembly will be able to block spending outright. But MPs say they will be able to demand the government supply detailed plans if members feel the choice of weapon, the cost, or method of financing is questionable.

"We will have the right to ask about every screw of a machine, every piece of equipment," said MP Nasser Al Sanea.

Diplomats say Kuwait is considering the possible purchase in coming years of 16 attack helicopters, eight fast patrol boats, six missile attack boats, 24 self-propelled howitzers, a multi-rocket launch system and some general purpose helicopters.

## French government and courts fight over Algerians

LYON (AFP) — Squabbling government and judicial officials were plunged into a constitutional minefield Saturday over two Algerians whose expulsion, ordered by the interior ministry, was countermanded by a court.

Madaci Mouloud, 18, and Abdul Hakim Youbi, 20, were arrested after a demonstration in Lyon on March 21 for alleged theft and public order offences.

A day later the ministry issued an expulsion order against the pair, who were put on a boat Thursday at Marseille bound for Algeria.

But the French judiciary countermanded the ministry's expulsion, ordering the youths' repatriation to allow them to stand trial on April 6 for the alleged offences.

Meanwhile, Mouloud and Youbi were stranded Saturday in the international zone at Algiers port, while their regional government officials to ensure their return to France.

The lawyers succeeded in securing an emergency tribunal hearing Monday, at which they will present their case for the executive to pay a daily 50,000-franc (\$9,000) surety to force regional prefect Paul Bernard to comply with the judicial directive ordering the Algerians' return.

The procedure was "a little unusual," the lawyers admitted, but added that they were "in the presence of an interior minister, to whom the prefect is answerable" who has decided not to recognise a judicial ruling.

The prefect, who continued Saturday to refuse to authorise the pair's return, hit back by announcing he would contest the tribunal's competence to rule on the case.

He said the lawyers' action was at odds with the constitutional principle of the separation of the executive and the judiciary.

The prefect added in a statement that Mouloud and Youbi had been accused of "breaking windows, theft, and receiving stolen goods" as well as throwing stones at security service personnel, and were "previously known to police."

Court authorities had stressed Friday that the two youngsters had the right to remain in France to be judged on the charges they face.

## Algerian police step up action against militants

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Fifty-two Islamic fundamentalists were killed throughout Algeria in the three days prior to the weekend, security forces said, indicating a surge in security action.

The toll, which related to deaths between Wednesday and Friday, took to 323 the number of fundamentalists killed by security forces since March 10.

The killings come amid an intensified government crackdown on fundamentalists, in particular following a jail breakout on March 10 in which 900 prisoners escaped.

Interior Minister Selim Saadi announced on Wednesday that reservists were to be called upon to help security forces tackle widespread unrest.

The high death tolls also point to the magnitude of the underground network of gunmen trying to topple the military-backed leadership.

Spectacular actions, like the March 10 attack on Tazoult prison, in the eastern Aures region, that freed hundreds of prisoners, and Monday's attack on the headquarters of an Algiers weekly point to the increasing ferocity of the underground.

One of three people injured in Monday's attack on Hebdo Libere died, bringing the death toll to three.

The latest victim, Nadir Mahmoudi, 24, was the brother of the newspaper's director, Abdul Rahman Mahmoudi. He was buried Friday.

A total of 12 journalists have been killed in less than a year, but the attack by up to seven gunmen on Hebdo Libere was the first assault on a newspaper itself.

The attack prompted editors to organise a show of solidarity, also intended as a message of protest to the country's military-backed government.

Newspapers decided not to publish Saturday and Sunday. The APS news agency stopped its wires from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and was carrying only a minimal service for the remainder of the day.

State television went off the air for an hour, and when it returned at 1 p.m. carried a black band in the left corner of the screen bearing the Arabic words meaning "No to terrorism."

The population has silently endured two years of violence that has left some 3,700 people dead. But there are growing signs of activism.

Some 18,000 workers at a steel complex in Al Hodjar, near Annaba, in the east, have agreed to give a day's salary to families of victims of the violence, according to sources of the General Union of Algerian Workers.

The partial news blackout followed last week's street protest, organised by women's groups, against the spiralling violence and the authorities' failure to stop it.

## Libya to withdraw troops from Chad, official says

PARIS (AP) — A Libyan official said Saturday that his country has every intention of withdrawing its soldiers from the Aouzou Strip, as ordered by the International Court of Justice, and denied charges of dawdling or massing new troops.

On Feb. 3, the court in the Hague confirmed Chad's sovereignty over the mineral-rich Aouzou Strip. Libya accepted the decision of the court and "there is no question of backpedalling," said Saad Mujber, foreign affairs secretary of the Libyan people's congress, or parliament.

"But we want to retreat... in a way that would avoid eventual conflicts and preserve the dignity of all parties."

Chad recently charged that Libya had blocked negotiations for the troop withdrawal with "unacceptable conditions" and that troops were again being concentrated in the Aouzou Strip, in the extreme north of Chad.

Mr. Mujber, representing his country in Paris at the interparliamentary conference, said Libya has asked Egypt to take steps to set up an observer committee to supervise the troop withdrawal. Egypt currently holds the rotating presidency of the Organisation of African Unity.

"In these conditions, we won't be held responsible for any delay in the pullout," Mr. Mujber said, pressing for OAU action on the matter.

"There are no abnormal troop movements," Mr. Mujber insisted, "nor sending of additional troops. But it is normal that we remain present until the withdrawal of our forces."

Libyan occupation of the Aouzou had been at the heart of years of strife with neighbouring Chad. In the 1980s, Libya used the strip as a takeoff point for troops that then raided and occupied all of northern Chad, until they were chased out with the help of the French, Chad's former colonial ruler.

## Somali police demand guns, equipment

MOGADISHU (AFP) — Somali police, patrolling Mogadishu in their brand-new Toyota pickups given to them by the United Nations, still lack the other tools needed for their dangerous job.

With plastic sandals on their feet and ancient guns in place of the sophisticated weapons touted by U.N. peacekeepers, they have started to press demands that the U.N. hand over equipment they say they should already have received.

It is already several weeks since the U.N. operation in Somalia (UNOSOM), received 350 vehicles, 5,000 M16 rifles, 5,000 handguns and batons, 5,000 pairs of handcuffs and steel-reinforced boots.

The equipment was provided by the United States to equip the local police force.

But the 5,000-strong Somali force, 3,000 in Mogadishu and 2,000 in the rest of the country, have so far only been given 31 white trucks.

"UNOSOM tells us we have to wait," laments General Ahmad Jilao Addo, co-chairman of the police committee put in place at the start of last year first by us and then by U.N. forces.

The Somali police service, founded 50 years ago but dissolved during the civil war, was reintroduced to Mogadishu at the start of the international operations in Somalia in December 1992.

The uniforms, vehicles and wages of the police were provided by UNOSOM, which in May succeeded the U.S.-led operation.

U.S. forces, pulled out of Somalia last week, leaving the U.N. operation there in the hands of mainly Third-World countries, principally Pakistan.

"The U.N. is waiting to see the outcome of the reconciliation accord signed between the (Somali) factions in Nairobi (last week). And then there's the bureaucracy," says Gen. Addo, explaining the delay in providing further hardware.

He would prefer to have the Americans to deal with, he says.

A spokesman for UNOSOM said the police would have first to follow a training programme, which has been started, before taking possession of the U.S. weapons.

But for Gen. Addo, time is pressing and bandits are already in the streets.

"We have to fight against the militia and the thieves," said the general, adding that he did not just need the equipment, but also "9,000 (extra) men minimum."

"The majority of people want peace," Gen. Addo said, "but the younger generation, who've got weapons but not got a job, no trade and no house, could use the guns as their sole source of income."

"For now, the citizens support us," said Mohammad Abdi Ilmi, a policeman on duty outside police headquarters here. "The U.S. soldiers have left, but we can do the job of keeping order ourselves," he says.

Given an M16, he will not support one Somali clan any more than another, he says.

## Looting and shooting

Somalis have launched an orgy of looting and gunfights around United Nations bases in Mogadishu.

Third World peacekeepers are struggling to prevent mayhem just two days after U.S. forces pulled out.

But razor wire, fences, tanks and sandbagged machine gun posts around bases do not stop determined Somalis.

"There have been various incidents of looting at the airport and sea port... there have been lapses in security," U.N. military spokesman Major Chris Budge told reporters Sunday.

Maj. Budge said Somalis were cutting holes through wire fences around the U.N.-controlled airfield and slipping past Egyptian guards.

At the heavily-defended sea port, they siphoned fuel out of U.N. storage tanks and made off with tyres and furniture.

Witnesses have seen Somali youths stroll triumphantly out the airfield gate with stacks of chairs on their heads under the noses of Egyptian guards and Pakistani peacekeepers holed up in their M-60 tanks.

"Items have been taken out of the gate. There are orders for more vigilance down at the airport," said Major Budge.

Overall U.N. commander Lieutenant-General Aboo Samah, a Malaysian, and Egyptian contingent commander Brigadier-General Abdul-Geil Al Fakhrani have both refused repeated requests for interviews.

## League meeting ends

(Continued from page 1) states concluded Sunday a two-day meeting on the unprecedented participation of Israelis in forthcoming regional conferences.

The meeting was held behind closed doors and no statements were issued about it. Sources close to the talks said the participants came from all six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) members — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the undersecretaries of GCC interior ministries will discuss the experts' recommendations in a meeting in Riyadh this week and submit them to the alliance's foreign ministers when they meet next weekend.

GCC countries have backed

the U.S.-led Middle East peacekeeping effort, launched in Madrid in October 1991.

The process provided for bilateral negotiations between Israel and Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestinians and simultaneous multilateral conferences on broader regional issues such as water-sharing, disarmament, environment and refugees.

Multilateral talks have since been held in many world capitals and GCC and Israeli officials have taken part.

But a conference on water-sharing, scheduled for April 17-20 in Oman, will bring the Israelis to the conservative Arab Gulf for the first time.

Qatar will host a disarmament forum May 2-3.

Other Gulf states have offered to host other multilateral conferences.

**JORDAN TELEVISION**  
Tel: 77311-19

**PROGRAMME TWO**  
17:30 Le Monde Sous Marin  
18:30 Magazine Local  
19:00 News in French  
19:15 The Weekly sport magazine  
20:00 News in Arabic  
20:30 Step By Step  
21:15 African Nation's Cup Match  
22:30 New in English  
23:00 Feature film "Short Circuit"

**PRAYER TIMES**  
04:00 Fajr  
12:20 (Sunrise) Duha  
13:10 Dhuhur  
15:11 Asr  
17:55 Maghreb  
19:07 Isha

**CHURCHES**  
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedieh, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 634990  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 632841  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Terresacres Church Tel. 622366  
Church of the Assumption Tel. 632841  
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel.

628543, Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331, Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 771331, St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751, Assam International Church Tel. 625256, Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 625256, German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195, The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932, Church of Nazareth Tel. 675491, The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

**WEATHER**  
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.  
It will be warm with clouds appearing at different altitudes and winds becoming southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.  
Min./Max. temp. Amman 10/23, Aqaba 15/29, Deserts 6/25, Jordan Valley 13/27  
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 31, Aqaba 28 Humidity readings: Amman 28 per cent, Aqaba 31 per cent.

**JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENAER**

**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**  
**NIGHT DUTY**  
AMMAN: Dr. Mobilia Halas 816220, Dr. Jamil Maraga 776149, Dr. Jamal Jbara 847351, Dr. Isam Asmar 890504, Firas pharmacy 661912, Firdows pharmacy 778336, Al Asma pharmacy 637035, Nairoh pharmacy 626672, Al Salam pharmacy 636730, Yacoub pharmacy 644943, Shamsan pharmacy 637660, Nairoh pharmacy 626672, Najib pharmacy 847632  
JEREB: Dr. Ali Shoaqiri 246140, Aqaba pharmacy (-)  
ZARQA: Dr. Youssef Harzallah 988075, Khalifeh pharmacy 985417  
**EMERGENCIES**  
Food Control Centre 637111

**Civil Defence Department** 661111  
**Civil Defence Immediate** 630341  
**Rescue** 630341  
**Civil Defence Emergency** 199  
**Rescue Police** 192 621111, 637777  
**Fire Brigade** 891228  
**Blood Bank** 775121  
**Highway Police** 843402  
**Traffic Police** 896390  
**Public Security Department** 630321  
**Hotel Complaints** 605880  
**Price Complaints** 661176  
**Water and Sewerage** 897467  
**Complaints** 897467  
**Amman Municipality** 674155  
**Complaints** 787111  
**Telephone Information** 121  
**Overseas Calls** 010230  
**Central Amman Telephone** 623101  
**Repairs** 623101  
**Abdali Telephone Repairs** 661101  
**Jordan Television** 773111  
**Radio Jordan** 774111  
**Water Authority** 680100  
**Jordan Electricity Authority** 815615  
**Electric Power** 636381  
**RJ Flight Information** 08-53300  
**Queen Alia Intl. Airport** 08-53300

**HOSPITALS**  
AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32, Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6, Al-Khad Maternity, J. Amn 644412, Jabil Amman Maternity 644282, Malhas, J. Amman 636140, Palestine, Shamsan 661714, Shamsan Hospital 669131, University Hospital 948945, Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9, The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37, Al-Ahli, Abdali 661646, Italian, Al-Muasher 777101/3, Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf 775111/26, Army, Marja 891611/5, Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50, Amal Hospital 674155  
ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323, Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560, The Sina Hospital (09)986732, Al-Hana Modern Hospital (09)990990, BEIRUT: Princess Basma Hospital (02)275355, Greek Catholic Hospital (02)672275, The Al-Naksa Hospital (02)674700, AQABA: Princess Faya Hospital (03)341111

**FOR THE TRAVELLER**  
**QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**  
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53300-5, where it should always be verified.  
**ARRIVALS**  
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)  
07:10 Sanaa (RJ)  
08:35 Damascus (RJ)  
09:40 Beirut (RJ)  
09:55 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
10:00 Beirut (RJ)  
10:20 New Delhi (RJ)  
12:40 Sanaa (RJ)  
13:30 Sanaa (RJ)  
14:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
17:00 Cairo (RJ)  
18:45 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)  
**DEPARTURES**  
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)  
05:30 Sanaa (RJ)  
06:00 Beirut (RJ)  
11:00 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)  
12:15 Aqaba (RJ)  
12:15 London (RJ)  
12:45 Frankfurt (RJ)  
20:00 Dhahran (RJ)  
20:15 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)  
20:45 Dubai, Karachi (RJ)  
21:20 Damascus (RJ)  
21:20 Abu Dhabi, Muscat (RJ)  
**Other Flights (Terminal 2)**  
06:00 Istanbul (TA)  
06:15 Beirut (MS)  
10:25 Cairo (MS)  
11:00 Khartoum (SD)  
15:45 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (GF)  
19:45 Dubai (KL)  
20:15 Amsterdam (KL)  
**HJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN**  
Dep. Amman 8:00 every Monday

**MARKET PRICES**  
Upper/lower price in lbs per kg.  
Apple 550/650  
Banana (Mukammer) 620  
Cabbage 240/120  
Cauliflower 160/100  
Clementine 80/40  
Cucumbers (large) 280/200  
Cucumbers (small) 260/180  
Eggplant 350/200  
Garlic 120/80  
Grape Fruit 1000/800  
Green beans 240/160  
Lemon 160/100  
Marrow (large) 120/120  
Marrow (small) 340/180  
Olives (green) 700/500  
Orange 400/180  
Onion (dry) 400/180  
Onion (green) 250/180  
Pears 720/600  
Pepper (hot) 520/350  
Pepper (sweet) 350/200  
Potato 560/400  
Radish 350/200  
Spinach 420/250  
String beans 600/400

## JPMC to dispose of stock, focus on newer mine

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) is planning to dispose of a large quantity of processed and unprocessed phosphates at two mines to help its cash flow and focus attention on a newer mine, the company's director general, Samih Madani, said Sunday.

Mr. Madani said the company estimated the market value of the phosphates — which include semi-processed and crushed and uncrushed rocks and "wet cakes" at the JPMC's Hasa and Al Ahiyad mines — at \$150 million.

Mr. Madani, in an interview with the Jordan Times, said it was difficult to categorize and quantify the various types of phosphates available because of the technicalities involved in grading which are known better to those involved in the industry.

"These are not reserves as some reports have suggested," he said. "These are actually stockpiles accumulated from various operations."

The decision for the proposed sales, expected to be completed during 1994-95, was taken since it "will help

the company to increase its cash flow as well as to focus more attention on our new mines at Shidiyeh, which is very promising," Mr. Madani said.

The sale will not have any bearing on the company's regular exports of phosphates from its mines at Hasa, Al Ahiyad and Shidiyeh, he said.

"It is part of a five-year (1994-1998) plan that the company is implementing with a view to diversifying production and focus on more productive and promising ventures," he said.

Until the Shidiyeh mines started production in 1990, the Al Hasa and Al Ahiyad mines were the main production facility of the JPMC.

It is cheaper for the company to mine and transport phosphates from Shidiyeh to the port of Aqaba for export purposes than the Hasa and Al Ahiyad mines. But production is continuing at the two older mines, Mr. Madani said.

The company produced nearly five million tonnes of rock phosphates during 1993 and exported 3.5 million tonnes.

The rest was processed at the company's fertiliser complex at Aqaba. Part of the ultimate product was ex-

ported and the rest was locally consumed.

The Jordanian government owns majority shares in the JPMC, one of the main foreign exchange earners of the Kingdom. Other shareholders include Arab governments.

Final figures for the company's performance during 1993 are expected to be released soon, Mr. Madani said.

The company's diversification plans to suit demands in the international market include a joint venture with an Indian company to produce phosphoric acid and another with a Japanese consortium to manufacture compound fertilisers.

The entire production from the venture with the Indians will be exported to India, while Japan will buy the output of the compound fertiliser plant.

The venture has already made considerable headway in raising finances and awarding contracts to build the acid plant. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$120 million.

Mr. Madani said the JPMC was reviewing various offers submitted in response to tenders related to the compound fertiliser plant.

## Germany opens consulate in Aqaba

By Suhair Obeldat and Natasha Bukhari  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN (J.T.) — Germany has become the second country to open a consulate in the port city of Aqaba to meet the needs of increasing numbers of tourists visiting the city.

An embassy official here said the consulate would serve in emergencies to assist visiting German tourists, as well as act as a liaison between Aqaba area residents wishing to travel to or conduct business with Germany and the embassy in Amman.

The success of the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations could mean an influx of tourists to Aqaba and other parts of southern Jordan including Petra, said the official, adding that the consulate would facilitate services to the expected increase in German visitors.

Abdul Aziz Kabarti, proprietor of Aqaba's Coral Beach Hotel, has been named honorary consul of the German office.

A ceremony to inaugurate the consulate will be held by the German embassy in Aqaba Thursday.

Egypt for many years has operated a consular office in the port city.

## Arabs' chances of political harmony within new world order are assessed

By Suhair Obeldat and Natasha Bukhari  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The afternoon session of the Third Arab Strategic Conference Sunday witnessed enthusiastic and positive responses on the part of attendees, who were impressed by the speakers' assessment of the Arabs' chances of achieving political harmony within the context of a new world order.

In the conference's fifth session participants addressed the Arabs' relations with Germany and China as two potential superpowers and the reflection of their international status on Arab, specially Middle Eastern, countries.

Under the general title "German policy in the Middle East," Iraqi speaker Hassan Bazzaz, reviewed historical German-Arab relations and threw light on "possible" future relations with unified Germany's new approach of highlighting its foreign relations.

Dr. Bazzaz, a professor at a United Arab Emirates (UAE) university, said Germany's strategic situation as part of a new unified Europe is of "great importance" as it is now "looking out" for economic domination and is competing with the U.S. in achieving international influence on world affairs.

Germany's efforts to implement its geo-political strategy would mean that, if successful, Bonn would assume power over directing European-Arab relations, he said.

"The question to ask ourselves would be: Can we make use of this possible success on Germany's part in a beneficial manner?"

In a paper which dealt with the Republic of China and its policy towards the Middle East, Mohammad Salim, professor of political science at the University of Cairo, described China as a broker that has no role in influencing the new world order. "However," he said, "China is now striving to assume political power (to complement its success in its growing economic

powers and industrial progression)." Dr. Salim said, adding that China's ability to reach this aim may be hindered by internal political instability that stems from strong racial differences among inhabitants of the republic's many regions.

"Although industrial growth in China was realised through its strategy of decentralising industrial opportunities, the government is still characterised by its communist policies," which, according to the speaker, renders its future position in international affairs uncertain.

Dr. Salim said that options were open for China's influence on international affairs in the new world order and its effects on the Middle East. He added that assuming China is able to contain its possible internal political disintegration, there is no guarantee that it will take a supportive stand towards the Arabs, especially the U.S. "wants to win China's allegiance to benefit from its technological expertise and dominance." However, as another possibility, the speaker presented a different case scenario where China may want to play the role of "the American tiger tamer," and in turn, adopt policies to lobby for human rights from which the Middle East would benefit.

At the end of the session both speakers agreed that Arabs should keep in mind that despite numerous uncertainties, the biggest challenge of all is winning the support of the superpowers who only benefit powerful and united nations.

The morning session of the conference had begun with a call from Minister of Information Jawad Anani stressing the need to move from dwelling on the past and instead present future outlooks on the issues discussed.

Under the general title "Arabs and Europe" Sunday morning, speakers addressed the effects of the European Union (EU) on the Arab World and the British and French policies in the Middle East and the Arab region.

"We want to understand how others perceive us, specially those whose decisions affect our life course," said Dr. Anani.

On the effects of the European Union on the Arabs, Mohammad Masalha, of the University of Jordan, said the intense competition among the great industrialised countries provides the Arabs with the chance to manoeuvre among them.

Dr. Masalha suggested the creation of an Arab union similar to the European one. When the Arabs are fragmented, they cannot form a weighty element that can affect the international decision-making process," he said.

In his paper on the British policy in the Middle East, Adnan Hardallo, of the Arab Political Science Association, reviewed the historical background of the British-Arab relations and the British policy vis-a-vis the Arab World.

In a future outlook, Dr. Hardallo concluded that it is possible to influence Britain's policy towards Arabs by capitalising on its membership in the European Union, specially through the countries in the union sympathetic to Arabs.

Mohammad Ajlani, a visiting researcher at the Centre for Strategic Studies of the University of Jordan, said French relations with the Arab World were based on its economic and political interests in the region.

Dr. Ajlani blamed the Arab countries for the limited role he believed France plays in the Arab arena, because they used to ask it to pressure the United States and because it was regarded as a limited country with no influence.

He suggested that Arabs should look for alternatives from within themselves. "We should know how to influence the French regime and the socialist ruling party to our benefit," he said.

"We should get to work on erasing the 'crusaders complex' which dominates the French mentality (i.e. any move from the Arab side is interpreted as Islamic Jihad); and

we should rid ourselves of our complex towards France (i.e. each move by France we consider as colonial)," he said.

Dr. Ajlani also suggested that Arabs benefit from the cultural atmosphere in France and establish institutions that would build an enlightened image of the Arabs, as well as activate the role of diplomatic missions there, "not to mention the important role that the media plays in the process."

In the noon session, "Arabs and Europe," two papers on the Russian policy vis-a-vis the Middle East and the economic relations among both parties were presented.

The majority of the attendees who commented on the two papers on the Russian dimension expressed their dismay that one of the speakers migrated to the past and failed to present a future outlook on the Russian-Arab relations.

A paper by Taha Abd Al Aleem, head of the economic unit at the Centre for Political and Strategic Studies (CPSS) at Al Aqaba in Cairo, described Russia as the heir of the Soviet power and presented a rather detailed and complex review of the evolution and current power struggle.

The schedule originally included a paper on Japan's policy in the Middle East but the speaker was obliged to cancel his attendance at the last moment.

The conference is jointly organised by the Centre for Strategic Studies of the University of Jordan, the CPSS of Al Aqaba and the Arab Political Science Association.

While commenting on the highlights of today's sessions, organisers said they were glad to see the majority of Jordan's political scientists who attended the meeting expressing their objection to the few migrations from the conference's aim. They said that such migrations usually stem from a preference to avoid "taboos," but the criticism revealed that scholars are demanding answers to very important questions that might otherwise have been dismissed.

## IAF deputy says Jordan's democracy is 'superficial'

Special to the Jordan Times  
AMMAN — A prominent Islamic Action Front (IAF) deputy has described democracy in Jordan as "superficial" and charged Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Taher Masri with collaborating with the government in preventing deputies from raising issues that the government did not want addressed.

"Democracy is only applied when it is convenient to serving certain parties' interests," said Deputy Abdul Aziz Jaber (Amman First District), who charged that some of the issues raised by lawmakers in the form of questions to the government were disregarded during the House's first ordinary session which ended last week.

The IAF deputy told the Jordan Times that some of the "sensitive issues" addressed by deputies were deliberately ignored by Mr. Masri who, he said, has failed to present them to the government.

Mr. Jaber said he had questioned the government

on why it had allowed 30 Jews into Jordan, but denied entry to two prominent Egyptian Islamists. He said Mr. Masri did not pass his question on to the government.

The deputy also accused Mr. Masri of "overlooking" an IAF legislators' bid to introduce a law banning the consumption of alcohol in the country. A draft law on alcohol consumption has been presented by the government to the House, which referred it to its Parliamentary Committee.

Parliamentary sources told the Jordan Times the House has decided to "sit on the legislation" to avoid the controversy the draft legislation is expected to raise.

The draft law puts some restrictions on the sale of alcohol, but does not ban its consumption in the Kingdom.

The IAF wants alcohol prohibited in accordance with Islamic Sharia and is expected to use religious clauses clearly forbidding the use of alcohol by Muslims to embarrass deputies who



Abdul Aziz Jaber

would not support his bid. Other members of the House shared Mr. Jaber's discontent with Mr. Masri's "casual brushing" off of their questions and had demanded that all their queries be answered by the government in the House's last meeting on March 22.

But that could not be done and many questions went unanswered by the government, Mr. Jaber said.

During one of the last sessions of the House, several IAF deputies told Mr. Masri that he had nothing to "fear"

in presenting deputies' inquiries to the government as it would be "pleased" to respond to all inquiries, some of which may be "too important" to leave unanswered.

Mr. Masri, however, dismissed the deputies' accusations, saying that these measures had to be taken because of the "lack of time," and that new arrangements would be made to accommodate deputies' requirements.

The disregard for democracy began long before this House convened in November last year, Mr. Jaber charged. He said it began when the government unilaterally introduced the one-person one-vote formula into the Election Law, which the Islamists and many other parties opposed.

Mr. Jaber added that deputies have demanded to be presented with a new draft election law of what he termed was of a more democratic nature, to be discussed in their extraordinary session which, parliamentary sources said, is expected to convene next month.

## Majali calls for investment projects

AMMAN (Petra) Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Sunday stressed the need to address the unemployment problem through expansion, by setting up investment projects throughout the Kingdom.

Addressing a meeting of the Jordan Investment Cor-

poration (JIC), Dr. Majali said establishing successful projects and then transferring them to the private sector will spur the national economy forward.

The premier listened to a briefing by JIC Acting Director General Mohammad Bataineh on the corporation's current and future investment projects.

Dr. Majali called for finalising a study on the situa-

tion of companies in financial trouble and stressed the need to find related solutions.

He urged the establishment of two holding companies, one dealing with oil and the other with minerals, in Jordan. The prime minister also outlined the importance of establishing a specialised maintenance company which can employ qualified engineers. He also emphasised

the need to implement the national housing project in cooperation with the Social Security Corporation (SSC), the Orphans Fund and the Ministry of Public Works and Housing.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Walid Asfour, the director general of the Natural Resources Authority and senior JIC officials.

## Syria's Kachlan, Al Maz and Shamma display the calibre of their virtuosity

By Ian Atalla  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Ab'ad Art Gallery in Amman is displaying the work of three well-established Syrian artists who, if one is to judge by the paintings present at the exhibition and the artists' resumes, are of a very high calibre.

Although all three show a virtuosity in their paintings of no little amount, perhaps the most striking work on an emotional level is that of Mamdouh Kachlan (65), who studied at the Fine Arts Academy in Rome and is currently the director of the Ebla Gallery in Damascus.

Most of Mr. Kachlan's paintings in the exhibit, and they are the ones which particularly draw the observer's attention, are depictions of the women of the fellaheen, or village peasants, and their children.

He uses a uniform tone of bright reds, blues and emerald throughout the paintings, but what most unifies them and makes them memorable are the eyes of his subjects — they are dark and hollow like wells, and convey a sense of both weariness and wisdom, and a quiet submission to some unalterable fate. But at the same moment, something strong still remains, and flickers in those eyes.

The work of Khaled Al-Maz (50) is a series of female nudes. Some are done with a Picasso-like abstractness, others are painted in an evanescent style with postures reminiscent of the drawings of Khalil Jibran. With his use of soft colours and tones, Dr. Al Maz gives his women a sensuality which is rarely seen in most modern abstract renderings of the female nude.

The work of Abdel Mannan Shamma (57) is a series of watercolours and oil paintings



Mamdouh Kachlan's "Visions Locales," 1978

of various traditional Middle Eastern scenes — a bedouin shepherd boy, an old horse-cart, the narrow, winding streets of a city's quarter, the colonnaded courtyard of a mosque.

If Dr. Shamma's classical style lacks the immediate eye-catchingness of that of his compatriots, his work shows the most range in its broad variety of scenes and subjects, and he possesses the classicist's truly expert feel for the use of lines, shades, colours and light.

Dr. Shamma obtained his

Ph.D. from the Soviet Academy of Fine Arts in Moscow and was the dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts at Damascus University from 1991 to 1993.

Dr. Al Maz studied painting and sculpture in Cairo and at the "Ecole" National Supérieur des Beaux-Arts in Paris. He is currently head of the painting division at the Faculty of Fine Arts at Damascus University.

The exhibition, which opened on March 21, continues until March 31.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by artist Ahmed Nawar at Balqa' Art Gallery in Fehs (daily from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.) (Tel. 720902).
- ★ Computer exhibition at the National Amman University.
- ★ Photo exhibition of the Hashemites and the heroic deeds of the Jordanian Armed Forces at the Jordan Zaitounah University.
- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artists Hussam Khader and Rahim Al Shaykhi at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Jordanian-Iraqi contemporary exhibition by over 80 artists at Alia Art Gallery in Wadi Saqra (9:30 a.m.-8:00 p.m.) (Tel. 644451).
- ★ Exhibition by Syrian artists Abdul Mannan Shamma, Khaled Al Maz, and Mamdouh Kachlan at Ab'ad Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of sculptures and drawings by Jordanian sculptor Samer Tabbaa. Also showing "permanent" exhibition of 54 Arab contemporary artists at Darat Al Founn of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Lawadbeh (Tel. 643251/2).
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Writers Do Draw" by Jamal Najl, Ibrahim Nasrallah, and Farouq Wadi at the Royal Cultural Centre.

### FILMS

- ★ Film in French entitled "Les Visiteurs" at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.
- ★ Film in Arabic entitled "The Dreams of a City" at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture at 5:00 p.m.

### MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

- ★ A one-hour show of a videotaped variety of classical music at the student multi-purpose building at the University of Jordan (12:00 noon-1:00 p.m.).

### LECTURES

- ★ Lecture on sales tax by Finance Minister Sami Gammooh at the headquarters of the Jordan Writers Association at 5:00 p.m.
- ★ Lecture entitled "Conservation Practice in Jordan" by Mr. Zaki Aslam from the Department of Antiquities at the Friends of Archaeology headquarters at 7:00 p.m.
- ★ Lecture entitled "The State and Development" by Dr. Ali Umleil at the Orthodox Club at 6:30 p.m.

### THE FIRST AMMAN THEATRE FESTIVAL

- ★ Drama entitled "A Very Symbolic Play" at the main theatre at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.
- ★ Drama entitled "Kawalees" at the studio theatre at the Royal Cultural Centre at 7:00 p.m.

## Cabinet to review draft health plan law

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Barring obstacles in Parliament and its committees, a comprehensive health insurance law could be endorsed in two months and applied before the end of the year benefiting several sectors of the society, according to Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas.

"We have submitted the draft law to the Council of Ministers after working on its provisions for six months, and it is hoped that it will be endorsed and forwarded to Parliament for examination

and approval, the minister told the Jordan Times Sunday.

The ministry has already prepared a cadre of officials to manage the national health plan and has taken measures to establish a health insurance general corporation that would deal with the application of the law, said Dr. Malhas.

All citizens and visitors to the country will be entitled to the benefits of the plan, and fees to be paid by the insured will be based on his/her income, Dr. Malhas added.

Health care services will be offered at all health centres and private as well as govern-

ment hospitals, he said.

It is hoped, said the minister, that the total cost of medical services would not exceed the collective amounts currently being spent in private, public and military services. Dr. Malhas said the plan would cover employees of the private and public sectors, pensioners, per diem workers, the handicapped, orphans, the elderly living in senior citizens homes, prisoners, employees covered by the Social Security Corporation Law, craftsmen, farmers, factory workers and non-Jordanian Arab and foreign visitors.

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## Jordan Times

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## Diagnosis before solution

CRIME AND drug abuse are on the rise in Jordan, officials are admitting at long last. For a long time those same officials were repeatedly saying that the Kingdom had no serious problems with either drugs or violent crimes. But, thanks to His Majesty the King, who has urged deputies to address the real socio-economic problems that face the country, the fight against the abuse of drugs is about to take its rightful place in society. The King, during an iftar banquet for the deputies in the month of Ramadan, had told the parliamentarians that Jordan had several thousand drug addicts who needed help. Also recently, in a reply to a deputy's question at the Lower House of Parliament, Minister of Interior Salameh Hamad reported that crime in 1993 had increased by 10 per cent over the previous year. What makes this very alarming is the increase in violent crime, especially the murder of children. Two crimes that involved the rape and murder of two children in the span of one year have shocked the nation to the core. Another indication that serious crime was on the rise is the fact that 10 people were executed for murder in 1993 alone, a sharp rise from 1992 which had witnessed no executions, according to a report released by Amnesty International.

Jordan, like any other society, cannot and will not be free of crime. However, like all the developing countries, the Kingdom has always been sensitive to discussing such matters. But a relaxation of regulation governing the freedom of expression in the last few years had made it possible for Jordanians to know more about their own social problems. It is probably due to this new glasnost that we now know and freely talk about a third of the population being under the poverty line.

It has to be said, though, that despite the role the media is attempting to play, officials are still reluctant to give out information. It is only stating the obvious to say that detailed, accurate and comprehensive information is a pre-requisite for all sorts of development, economic and social. That is why Article 19's criticism of the Press and Publication Law, for not being forceful in requiring government agencies to divulge information, is relevant. Social scientists and economic planners could not do their job properly unless they are provided with accurate information. For crime to be reduced the society at large should be made aware of each crime, from robbery to murder. After revealing the details of the crimes involving the two children, people are now more aware of the need to protect their children properly.

Back in 1820 the American leader, Thomas Jefferson, said: "I know no safe depository of the ultimate powers of the society but the people themselves, and if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise that control with a wholesome direction, the remedy is not to take it from them, but to inform their discretion."

That statement remains applicable today and especially to a society like ours, where "freedom and progress" is the new name of the game.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

LIFTING OF the Arab boycott against Israel will be tantamount to an economic catastrophe for the Arab World, according to Al Ra'i Arabic daily Sunday. Commenting on a proposal before the Arab League Council in Cairo about the prospects of lifting the boycott, the paper said that the Arabs should maintain the boycott regulations to safeguard their national interests. It is regrettable to see the Arab ministers discussing such a proposal while the Israelis continue to kill and wound thousands of Arabs in the occupied Arab lands, said the paper. It is shameful for the Arabs to discuss such a proposal while they maintain sanctions on their Iraqi brothers and sisters and help the hostile forces to starve Arab children and cause the death of hundreds of thousands of innocent Iraqis, continued the paper. The Arab regimes should respect the flood of the worshippers that was shed in Hebron and continues to be shed in other parts of the occupied Arab territories and should refrain from discussing ending the boycott of Israel, demanded the paper.

THE CURRENT, brewing issue over inspection of North Korea's nuclear facilities has been triggered by the United States to serve its own selfish interests and not because it is afraid the north might develop a nuclear weapon to be used against the south, said Saleh Al Qallab, a columnist in Al Dastour. The writer said that while the United States and its allies, including Israel, are allowing themselves to build up arsenals of mass destruction weapons they are trying to deny this right to others. Why do the United States and the United Nations refrain from forcing the Israelis to open their nuclear facilities to the International Atomic Energy Agency and why is the United States continuing to build mass nuclear weapons? asked the writer. The United States, which is waging an economic war on Japan, has created this issue with North Korea at this particular moment in order to draw Japan's attention to an alleged nuclear danger next door and ensure continued Japanese subjugation to Washington's will economically and militarily, suggested the writer. He said that North Korea is no danger to anyone and it is indeed powerful enough to thwart all hostile American designs against its people.

## The meaning of the U.S. vote at the U.N.

By Dr. James Zogby

The United States showed a weak hand in its vote on the United Nations Resolution 904 condemning the massacre at Hebron's Ibrahimi Mosque. This weak hand was a function of administration efforts to reconcile the political priority of restarting the peace talks with the reality of intense domestic political pressures.

In the weeks leading up to the vote, the White House was bombarded by calls to veto the proposed resolution because it referred to Jerusalem as occupied territory. An overwhelming majority of the U.S. Senate voted in favour of a resolution calling for the administration to veto the U.N. resolution. Letters to the president signed by the majority of the members of the House of Representatives also called upon the U.S. to veto the resolution. And five Democratic senators, all up for election this year, made urgent calls to the president expressing their concern over the potential negative impact on Democratic candidates this fall if the administration supported the U.N. resolution.

Meanwhile, leading Republicans exploited the administration's quandary over the U.N. vote. Appearing as guest speakers at the American Israel Public Affairs Committee's (AIPAC) annual conference, Jack Kemp (who many consider the leading Republican presidential contender for 1996), New York Senator Al D'Amato and Congressman Newt Gingrich (who is likely to become minority leader of the Republicans in Congress in 1995) all called upon the administration to veto the U.N. resolution.

Political analysts understood that the Republican play was an effort to recapture the relatively strong Jewish support that Republicans had enjoyed during the Reagan administration. They wanted to appear more pro-Israel than Clinton, and even Yitzhak Rabin, which the Republicans hoped would give them a chance of undoing the loss of Jewish votes and money Republicans suffered during the Bush years.

What provided the administration with some breathing room was the fact that the largest pro-Israel lobby, AIPAC, was virtually silent about the U.N. vote. AIPAC was urged by the government of Israel not to call for a veto of the U.N. resolution, and at its national meeting the ruling board of the lobby defeated a motion which would have called upon the administration to veto the U.N. resolution.

Similarly, the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organisations, which passed a resolution opposing the U.N. resolution, did not join the forces calling for a veto.

Therefore, what emerged was one of the most intriguing side bars to the entire story: the split that emerged between some pro-Israel elements in the American Jewish community on the one hand, and other elements of that community along with the Labour-led government of Israel on the other. AIPAC and the conference of presidents lined up behind Mr. Rabin's position which was to accede to the U.N. resolution; while the Zionist Organisation of America and Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (among others)

debate from 1988, when I led the fight for a Democratic Party platform resolution calling for Palestinian rights and self-determination. I represented the Jesse Jackson presidential campaign in that fight. We had enough votes to generate at least a debate on the floor of the Democratic National Convention in Atlanta. Opposing us were the victorious Dukakis campaign and the Democratic Party regulars who supported Middle East policy language which made no mention of Palestinians. The leader of the Dukakis campaign's negotiating team was, ironically, Madeleine Albright, now the U.S. ambassador to the U.N.

Mr. Albright's arguments with me were of two types. First, on principle, the Dukakis

community were outraged and the Republican Party did attempt to exploit the debate, the public exchange of ideas and positions did not in fact destroy the party.

This fear of alienating the most headline elements in the pro-Israel community still exists, and is still a powerful factor in shaping U.S. policy.

In the months leading up to the writing and adoption of the 1992 Democratic Party platform, we worked out a compromise language on the Middle East with some Jewish groups. But our efforts were undercut by a powerful group of party regulars. Seeking to avoid a repeat of 1988, these party activists engineered a compromise between the more liberal Americans for Peace Now and the more hardline AIPAC

Although clearly pro-Israel in its leanings, the language was somewhat ambiguous. What did the Clinton campaign mean by it? I objected to the lack of balance in the platform language with an op-ed in the Washington Post writing:

"...the Democratic Party platform criticises the Bush administration for being one-sided (presumably against Israel). ...And for the first time in eight years, the platform includes a provocative section calling 'undivided' Jerusalem the capital of Israel, in effect predetermining the outcome of one of the most sensitive issues to be negotiated in the peace talks."

Two of the major crafters of that language, Peter Edel-

salem, their campaign had nothing to offer to headline Jewish activists.

Thus, during Clinton's recent meeting with a group of American Jewish leaders when he was asked the question "have you changed your position on Jerusalem," Mr. Clinton responded with a flat no and said that his position had not changed. By this he really means two seemingly contradictory things:

1) his campaign position still stands; and

2) U.S. policy towards Jerusalem still stands.

So on one level the U.S. explanation for its vote can be accepted at face value. This explanation breaks out into several points.

1) The administration wants to see the peace process resume and knew that the U.N. resolution was critical to achieving that goal.

2) The White House also wanted to condemn the massacre and work within the framework of the Declaration of Principles to establish an international mechanism to provide some increased security and confidence for Palestinians.

3) The Clinton team did not want to accept language that would weaken Mr. Rabin in Israel or be seen by enemies of Mr. Rabin as an attempt by the U.S. to predetermine the outcome of the final status negotiations regarding Jerusalem and the sovereignty of the Israeli-occupied territories.

And, of course, not included in the official version but clearly understood by all U.S. observers is that the administration was looking for a way out of an up or down U.N. vote on this resolution (which Israel also supported as necessary to restart the peace talks), and as a way of relieving the intense domestic political pressure coming from some strong pro-Israel elements, from a number of leading Republicans, and from some Democrats who are running for reelection this fall.

For our part, Arab Americans insisted and continue to insist that the U.S. respond more vigorously to incidents of Israeli settlement building around Jerusalem, and we urged the administration to support the description of Jerusalem as occupied territory. We insisted that both of these positions were correct from both the legal and moral point of view. In the end, we lost — practical politics continues to dictate another course of action.

In these calculations of practical politics, Arab Americans cannot yet compete with Jewish Americans head-on, nor does it appear to policy makers that, when weighed in the balance, the potential price to be paid in the Arab World for the U.S. vote will not be at all equal to the price the administration would have paid had it chosen to vote in favour of the entire resolution.

And so one level, our side lost — the U.S. objected to language we felt was both morally and legally correct. On another level, the loss is only one of appearances, since there will be no real change in policy.

The real issues are not the words; they are the imbalance of political power that continues to shape the words that are used.



led the fight calling for a veto.

There was also an intense debate within the administration. Many foreign service career officers, especially those with experience in the Middle East, advised the administration not to allow the perception of change on American policy on Jerusalem. They warned of the danger that changing to the U.S. position would have in the region, saying that the impact of a new U.S. policy on Jerusalem would ruin the peace process. Arguing for a veto, or at least an abstention to "objectionable passages," were some political appointees whose concerns were those of domestic political impact. A U.N. vote would have on the White House and the Democratic Party in general.

I recall a similar round of

this campaign would not accept any changes in language because their position was firm and virtually non-negotiable (although they did indicate a willingness to add some modest language Palestinians). More to the point, however, was their argument that they feared damaging political repercussions if this issue were debated in public. They were concerned that we would press for a floor debate, since they felt that even such an airing of this issue would anger the Jewish community and therefore have the potential of "destroying the Democratic Party."

In the end, I held out for the right to a floor debate. We did not win on our resolution but we did force a debate, the first such debate at a Democratic convention. Although some in the Jewish

groups which included this language relevant to the current debate over U.S. policy towards Jerusalem:

"Support for the peace process now under way in the Middle East, rooted in the tradition of the Camp David accords. Direct negotiations between Israel, her Arab neighbours and Palestinians, with no imposed solutions, are the only way to achieve enduring security for Israel and full peace for all parties in the region. ...The United States must act effectively as an honest broker in the peace process. It must not, as has been the case with this administration, encourage one side to believe that it will deliver unilateral concessions from the other. Jerusalem is the capital of the state of Israel and should remain an undivided city accessible to people of all faiths."

man (then president of Americans for Peace Now and now an administration official in the Department of Health and Human Services), and Stuart Eizenstat (a former Carter administration official and a point person for the more hardline Jewish community at the time and now serving as a U.S. representative to the European Community), responded with a letter in the Washington Post and wrote:

"Mr. Zogby condemned the Democratic platform for including a 'provocative section calling undivided Jerusalem the capital of Israel.' In fact, the platform recognises that Israel considers Jerusalem its capital. It makes no statement about moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem before the peace process is complete. It simply repeats what has been U.S. policy under every president since 1967, namely that Jerusalem should not be divided again. ...The U.S. government has been able to maintain this position without offending Arab nations by leaving the issue of sovereignty over the undivided city to final negotiations between the parties."

This position was ridiculed by some Jewish critics who noted that in effect, the Clinton position amounts to posturing, not promising to do anything to change U.S. policy. They argued that if the U.S. would not move its embassy or do anything to change the status of Jeru-

## For aid to work, help the poor help themselves

By Muhammad Yunus

DHAKA, Bangladesh — Twenty years ago, officials from around the world gathered in Rome to consider the plight of hungry masses everywhere. A commitment was made to eliminate global malnutrition by 1980. This was to be accomplished by creating new institutions, redesigning old ones and spending more money.

Projects financed under this programme were supposed to make adequate food available to millions of "beneficiaries." Unfortunately, no such thing happened. But today, although donor nations have reduced their aid budgets, there is an opportunity finally to end hunger. This can be done by early in the next century, using the institutions that were supposed to have done it by 1980.

When we think of aid "beneficiaries," we think of faceless people in distant countries. The word "donors" brings to mind sluggish bureaucracies of various shapes and sizes. Consultants, too, play a role; they have little opportunity to meet those receiving aid. Their knowledge comes mostly from studies by academics, usually far removed from areas of need.

This process hardly allows for meaningful partnerships between donors and the poor.

Who are the real "beneficiaries" of the international aid business, which distributes about \$60 billion a year? A study in Bangladesh found that 75 per cent of the billions of dollars Bangladesh has received in foreign aid since independence

in 1971 went back to donor countries to pay for consultants, advisers, commodities, equipment and so on. Most of the remaining 25 per cent of the aid went to local consultants, advisers, contractors, bureaucrats and engineers, not the poor. So who are the real beneficiaries?

The aid to Bangladesh helped build roads, bridges, power plants and research institutions, and helped buy equipment for factories.

Large numbers of people are supposed to benefit. But most often, it is the people who prepare and implement "aid projects" who benefit.

The poorest half of the populations of recipient countries, particularly women, see few benefits. Some projects even harm them.

Aid bureaucracies claim to promote "development" in Third World countries. Development, in most cases, is interpreted as short-term economic growth. Aid methodologies are usually designed by so-called experts at growth-promotion. These experts may do a good job of building infrastructure, but they show no skill in improving the productive capacity of poor people.

The multilateral development finance institutions, both global and regional, focus on infrastructure building. Their methodologies allow them to work only with national governments, not nongovernmental organizations or civic groups.

It is time for the wealthy Northern countries to make a political commitment to build

solidarity with the poorest half of the population in the South, particularly women. Taxpayers in donor countries should make it plain to their aid officials that they want their money to be spent directly on the reduction of poverty. There should be a clear timetable for making the world poverty-free.

But first, several important changes will be needed in the aid agencies; this is particularly true of the multilateral development finance institutions. All these agencies need to redefine their missions to reflect this new commitment.

One strategy that development agencies can use to make this happen is to ensure that the poor have access to investment capital. Credit is a potent weapon, helping the poor fight their way out of poverty through their own efforts. Poor women show exceptional skill and ability in building better lives for themselves and their families once they have access to credit.

Credit Bank in Bangladesh, and more than 100 Grameen programmes in 40 other countries, have demonstrated this beyond doubt.

Today, Grameen Bank serves nearly two million borrowers in Bangladesh, 94 per cent of them women. Grameen works in half of Bangladesh's 68,000 villages.

Last year more than \$300 million was disbursed in housing and income-generating loans. The repayment rate remains above 98 per cent. Research on Grameen borrowers shows that the bulk of them moving steadily out of poverty. Grameen Bank has always

been known as a bank for the poor. But we are approaching a time when it will be described as the bank of the formerly poor.

We find it strange that while Grameen is admired for pioneering a method that gives the poor a chance to move out of poverty, international development finance institutions find it impossible, or at least difficult, to support the Grameen replication programmes around the world. Their rules, procedures, methodologies and concepts get in the way.

In frustration, we have created a separate organisation, Grameen Trust. Private and official donors have provided funding to finance Grameen replications around the world. To cope with fast-rising demand for training and funding, the trust has prepared an estimate of demand over the next five years. We are asking donors to help us assemble the needed amount — about \$100 million — to support an increasing number of Grameen replications.

If the people of the donor countries make a political commitment to build solidarity with the poor around the world, they will know how to change their bilateral and multilateral aid machineries to carry out their will. No excuses from aid agencies can stand before the firm political commitment of concerned taxpayers.

The writer is managing director of the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh. This article is reprinted from the International Herald Tribune.

### LETTERS

## An eye for an eye

To the Editor:

I read your article entitled "Amnesty gives a mixed review of Jordan's record" (Jordan Times, March 22, 1994), written by Sana Atyeh.

The writer stated that Amnesty International (AI) appealed to the Jordanian government to abolish the death penalty in the Kingdom because it violates the fundamental right to life.

I, as a Muslim-Jordanian and a mother of four children, appeal to His Majesty King Hussein and to the Jordanian authorities to keep the death penalty on because brutal murderers such as Abu Zaid of Zarqa, the murderer of the executed, Death is the only punishment such people deserve. Jordanian authorities must have no mercy on murderers and criminals and there should be no life for the ones who take the

Nadia Hameed,  
Al Dastour,  
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

## Jordan needs an authority to tackle human rights issues

By Waleed Sadi

Jordan's date with the Human Rights Committee in New York last week to discuss the third periodic report on its human rights condition turned into a disappointment when the Jordanian delegation did not show up.

The Jordanian report was put on the agenda of the committee many months ago and Amman was duly informed about this occasion. There was considerable hope within and without the country that the occasion to examine the Jordanian report on its treaty obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights would provide yet another opportunity to highlight the Jordanian democratic process especially in the wake of the rebirth of parliamentary life in the Kingdom. Why the government by-passed an opportunity to underline its advancement of human rights endeavours is still a big puzzle. One thing, though, is sure: the international human rights body was unanimous in censuring Jordan for its apparent contempt of its proceedings. Some members expressed their anger and surprise that Jordan of all countries, would treat the human rights organ in such a manner at a time when the country was expected to set an example for other nations in the area.

The most unfortunate thing about this shocking behaviour is that it did not reflect a state policy in any way. The country's report was duly prepared, in a very professional way, something that reflects the Kingdom's sincere desire to enter into meaningful dialogue with the international community on its civil and political rights.

### Human Rights File

What apparently went wrong is the lack of knowledge and appreciation of the mechanics of the U.N. human rights activities. In the final analysis it was bureaucracy that led to the failure to honour Jordan's commitment to appear before the 18-member expert group and debate its report on the various articles of the covenant which have yet to be implemented in full.

This state of affairs leads to one conclusion: Jordan needs a central authority to deal with human rights issues. Many countries have opted to create a post of minister for human rights. Others chose to create a high post attached either to the ministry of foreign affairs or to the prime minister's office for the purpose of coordinating all efforts on all human rights subjects.

It is high time that Jordan began thinking along these lines in order to avoid committing the same kind of error that occurred last week in New York. Needless to add, the Jordanians felt big disappointment at the turn of events in New York as they wanted a real opportunity to gauge their country's performance in the human rights field. Some NGOs, both local and foreign, were looking forward to the third week of March in order to probe deeper into the Jordanian democratic experiment. This did not happen. No doubt some sceptics would seize on the occasion to question Jordan's deep commitment to the human rights treaties that it had signed and ratified.

Until and unless we can get our act together and avoid pitfalls like the one last week, the enemies of Jordan would continue to exploit them to further their own goals. Jordan deserves better treatment by its officials and they must not be allowed to ruin the image of the country in which we all have invested so much.

## U.S. sees no lifting of Iraq embargo in '94

KUWAIT (Agencies) — A U.S. State Department official said United Nations sanctions on Iraq would not be lifted in 1994, a newspaper reported on Sunday.

"I do not see any possibility of cancelling sanctions this year," Al Qabas quoted Ronald Newman as saying in an interview.

Mr. Newman, director of the northern Gulf affairs office of the Near Eastern affairs office of the State Department, dismissed as a wording problem a split among U.N. Security Council members over a statement on sanctions, Al Qabas said.

The U.N. Security Council on March 16 agreed to maintain sanctions against Baghdad at its regular 60-day review. But its permanent members were so divided over the wording of a formal statement saying so that no such document was issued.

Russia, China and France wanted the wording modified to reflect Iraq's cooperation with a U.N. Special Commission with dismantling its weapons of mass destruction under 1991 Gulf war ceasefire terms.

The United States and Britain wanted the wording unchanged.

Mr. Newman said the split stemmed from a problem over the wording of the statement, Al Qabas said.

## Qadhafi meets leaders of hardline Palestinians

CAIRO (AP) — Palestinian groups opposed to the Middle East peace talks say they will continue to fight for the destruction of Israel and the return of Jerusalem to Arab sovereignty.

Leaders of 10 so-called "rejectionist" groups made the statement after meeting Saturday with Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Qadhafi.

Although Col. Qadhafi pledged to eschew extremism as part of efforts to avoid U.N. sanctions over the Pan Am 103 bombing, he announced last December that two of the world's most wanted men — Abu Nidal and Ahmad Jibril — were welcome in Libya.

It was seen as a gesture of defiance at the United Nations, which on Dec. 1 tightened sanctions against Libya to force it to turn over two Libyans in connection with the 1988 Pan Am bombing.

Libya's official JANA news agency said that Col. Qadhafi met Saturday with the leaders of the Palestinians, then hosted a dinner in their honour.

Most of the groups are part of a Syrian-based alliance that has pledged to fight the Arab-Israeli peace talks that have been under way since 1991.

They are especially critical of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat's efforts to negotiate a limited self-rule for Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

The sanctions were expanded on Dec. 1, 1993, to include a freeze on some Libyan financial assets abroad and a ban on the supply of equipment for refineries, oil export facilities and aviation.

Libya has said it will turn the men over to the World Court or a Muslim court, but has rejected Western demands that the suspects stand trial in the United States or Britain.

The Palestinians urged Arab states to break the embargo, saying it was an attack on the entire Arab World.

## Dirty business as usual for death or glory men

Shyam Bhatia of the Observer examines the Israeli secret service Mossad and whether the historic handshake between Rabin and Arafat has done anything to change its often controversial and deadly style.

The middle-aged Palestinian rotting in cell 17 of a Palestine Liberation Organisation jail in the suburbs of Tunis is living proof of a Mossad adage that says politics and security never mix in the treacherous waters of the Middle East.

Indeed, the case of Aduan Yassin, one of Yasser Arafat's most trusted confidants, is evidence that generations of enmity between Israel and the Arabs are more significant in the hourglass of history than a mere handshake between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and the chairman of the PLO.

Mr. Yassin, who held the rank of deputy ambassador until he was caught last November, is the most senior PLO official to be caught spying for Israel's intelligence service. For months, Mossad officials, sitting in Tel Aviv, were able to monitor every nuance of the secret discussions thousands of miles away at PLO headquarters in Tunis.

The hidden microphones planted by Yassin and his son, Hani, became an indispensable asset for Israeli strategists as they planned each phase of negotiations with the PLO. The suspicions of the Palestinian team were aroused when Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres seemed to possess uncanny inside knowledge of PLO thinking.

A sweep of PLO premises led to the discovery of sophisticated listening devices planted inside a lamp and a desk in the office of Arafat's second-in-command, Mahmoud Abbas, also known as Abu Mazen, who signed the historic Oslo agreement on behalf of the PLO.

Mr. Yassin had free access to his office and arranged for the crucial change of furniture that enabled the Mossad to listen in.

Since Mr. Yassin's arrest,

two other Palestinians have been picked up in Tunis on suspicion of working for Mossad. One of them is the PLO's radio operator, Mohammad Feisal, and the other, Ahmad Abu Awf, is a PLO activist from the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip.

The ensuing panic in PLO ranks led Arafat to confiscate the passports of all his staff, pending investigations. Most of his bodyguards have been replaced and some PLO officials put under house arrest.

Mr. Yassin's desk and lamp appear in the nightmares of PLO officials who compete in frenzied searches of their smallest personal possessions, even desktop pens and staplers, for bugs.

For Mossad, it is all in a day's work. Furniture-bugging is an old trick; when the head of the Syrian airforce visited Paris in the 1970s on a mission to buy easy chairs and tables for his home and office, Mossad mounted a special operation to provide him with the items. His assistant was lured into purchasing furniture worth \$129,000, including an ornate Belgian desk primed with listening devices worth \$33,000.

Victor Ostrovsky, the renegade Mossad agent who published the inside story of Mossad operations in his best-selling book, *By Way of Deception*, says: "The Mossad are still waiting to hear from the table; they've already had combatants (field agents) going around with listening devices trying to pick it up and they can't find a thing. It would have been a dream if it had worked out."

Syria has always represented a prime target for Mossad. It was the stamping ground of Israel's legendary spy, Eli Cohen, executed in Damascus, whose high-quality informa-

tion helped the Jewish state to victory in the 1967 Middle-East war.

Palestinian resistance groups that flourished after the 1967 defeat obliged Mossad to change its tactics. In the eyes of the Arabs, Mossad is synonymous with terror and assassination and it has become the favourite scapegoat for every failed coup or bomb explosion on the Arab street.

These fears are not without foundation. Late last year, a former Israeli intelligence chief, General Aharon Yaariv, confirmed for the first time that Mossad hit teams were responsible for assassinating top PLO leaders believed to be behind the massacre of Israeli athletes in the 1972 Munich Olympics. "I approach it from a cost-benefit point of view," Mr. Yaariv said in an interview. "It is morally acceptable? That's debatable. Is it politically viable? It was."

Similar arguments were used to justify Operation Suzannah in 1954 when Israeli agents in Egypt took part in a terror campaign to damage Cairo's ties with London and Washington. The Israelis planted bombs in cinemas, post offices and British and American institutions before they were eventually caught. Two were hanged and six others sentenced to prison.

Mossad has had its moments of glory, such as helping to rescue the Entebbe hostages or planning Operation Moses, in which thousands of Ethiopian Jews were airlifted to safety in Israel in 1984.

But every success story is matched by a long list of blunders that have claimed the lives of innocents. The practised ease with which Mossad's licensed cutthroats carry out their executions — without any political comeback — never ceases to astonish its counterparts in the West.

After the Munich killings, Prime Minister Golda Meir assembled a secret group, Committee X, that authorised

Mossad to track down and eliminate those responsible for murdering the Israeli athletes. At the top of the list was Ali Hassan Salameh, operations officer for the Black September terrorists whom Mossad had codenamed the "Red Prince." He was one of a dozen Palestinian men eventually trapped by Israeli intelligence.

Before Salameh was blown up in Beirut in 1979, Mossad gunmen killed his Moroccan lookalike Ahmad Bouchiki, a waiter working in the Norwegian ski resort of Lillehammer. At least one other Palestinian on the Mossad list was also innocent of Munich connections.

In hunting down the conspirators, Mossad made use of its extensive list of Palestinian informers. In recruiting these "black agents", as they are called, Mossad officials often pose as representatives of NATO, or a western government, so as not to scare them off. Once information has been provided, the dollars start flowing, the man from Mossad reveals his true identity. This was the plot that was used to recruit Mr. Yassin in Tunis.

Nor is Mossad squeamish about using the passports of friendly western countries to facilitate the movements of its agents. When eight forged British passports were discovered in a telephone booth in Germany in 1987, Britain was furious when they were linked to an Israeli courier operating out of diplomatic premises in Bonn.

This was the start of a damaging political scandal that eventually forced Mossad to close its London liaison office in 1988. The discovery of the passports preceded an even more serious incident in which Mossad failed to tip off M15 about a PLO plot to assassinate a London-based Palestinian cartoonist, Naji Al Ali, who regularly lampooned Arafat.

Ten months after Naji Al Ali

was shot, Scotland Yard arrested a Palestinian student who turned out to be a Mossad agent. Under interrogation, the Jerusalem-born man, Ismail Sowan, said that his superiors in Tel Aviv had been briefed well in advance of the plot to kill the cartoonist.

By refusing to pass on the relevant information to their British counterparts, Mossad earned the displeasure of Britain, which retaliated by expelling two Israeli diplomats from London.

Undeterred by the British reaction, Mossad used forged passports of another western government to send its agents to Tunisia to lay the groundwork for the assassination of the PLO's "minister of defence", Abu Jihad, who was viewed in Israel as the driving force of the *intifada* in the occupied territories.

This assessment was off the mark. If anything, the assassination of Abu Jihad in 1988 fuelled Palestinian violence that continues to rage.

"In my mind, it was never a policy to eliminate personalities," says Colonel Ephraim Kam, a former analyst of Israeli military intelligence. "Perhaps, sometimes yes, but not because of political or strategic implications. To my mind, it was to weaken the leaders of Palestinian military organisations, to reduce the options for terrorist activities and not for general political or strategic objectives."

Another former intelligence expert, Dr. Yossi Alpher, explains that Palestinians are "one of three spheres of interaction that challenge Israeli's security interests".

Dr. Alpher, who is currently director of the Jaffee Institute of strategic studies at Tel Aviv university, is uniquely qualified to interpret the cloak-and-dagger world.

"We see the Palestinians as part of the intercommunal Israeli-Palestinian conflict which presents very different

challenges and is very different in terms of security thinking than, for example, how to disengage in war with Syria or how to deal with the longer-term Iranian threat. Our Arab neighbours are part of the Sunni Arab heartland which rejected Israel in the Fifties and Sixties. Now, however, they realise that they don't have a military option to deal with us and they will have to deal with us politically. They're not happy but they've accepted this notion."

Both Dr. Alpher and Col. Kam agree that Mossad will continue to watch events in the Arab World even if peace agreements are formalised. "On the other hand, the threat perception will change," argues Col. Kam. "A change has already taken place since Egypt signed a peace treaty with us. If we reach agreement with our Arab neighbours, the chances of another war will significantly decline."

What Israel's intelligence community now argues for are fresh resources to monitor long-term non-conventional nuclear, biological and chemical threats. The focus of interest is Iran, Iraq and, possibly, Libya. Unwilling to rely on satellite assessments supplied by their friends in Europe and the U.S., the Israelis are developing their own satellite technology.

In the days of the Shah, Iran was the linchpin of an Israeli strategy to foster close ties with non-Arab states on the fringes of the Arabian peninsula. Now the wheel has turned half-circle and Khomeini's heirs have placed themselves at the head of an international Islamic movement that demands the dismantling of the Jewish state.

"Iran will be much stronger, militarily 10 years from now," says Col. Kam. "Iraq is weak, but it will also come back. Iran is a major force, not just for Israel but also for Arab regimes and American interests."

## American Jews and Arabs call for speeded up peace process

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The National Association of Arab Americans (NAAA) and Americans for Peace Now (APN) have issued a joint statement calling for an accelerated Middle East peace process and urging the United States to take a more active role in that process.

It was the first time leading Arab American and Jewish American organisations reached a consensus on policy recommendations related to the peace process, representatives of NAAA and APN said during a press conference.

This consensus, they said, grew out of concern over the February 25 massacre of Palestinian worshippers in Hebron by a Jewish extremist and the subsequent derailment of the peace process.

NAAA and APN will forward their policy recommendations to President Clinton, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO chairman Yasser Arafat, as well as to members of the U.S. Congress, Khalil Jahshan, executive director of NAAA, said.

"We are simply suggesting some steps that would enhance the peace process at this difficult juncture.... Our objective is to facilitate," he said.

The key point, Gail Pressberg, executive director of APN, said, is to "move as promptly as possible, get back to the (negotiating) table and at the same time take care of security issues."

"It is very important to our (Jewish American) community that we be able to join with Arab Americans and Palestinians to look at the security of people so that the peace is lasting, and that both Israelis and Palestinians see life is better when the (Israel-PLO) agreement goes into effect," she said.

Mr. Pressberg noted that there are differences of opinion among the two communities on issues such as whether to disarm and move Jewish settlers in the West Bank and Gaza and about the status of Jerusalem.

These differences, however, "do not obliterate the fact that there is a common agenda... to get the peace agreements going," she stressed.

George Salem, president of NAAA, agreed, saying: "This document is by definition a compromise of positions of our respective organisations."

The NAAA and APN policy recommendations include:

"In order to safeguard the security of both Israeli and Palestinian civilians, the government of Israel should immediately remove all settlers from the city of Hebron. The government of Israel should also remove all settlements from the Gaza Strip to facilitate the implementation of the Declaration of Principles...."

"The Clinton Administration should actively support adequate and effective security measures that will guarantee

the safety and protection of the civilian Palestinian population" in the West Bank and Gaza, until a Palestinian police force is established there; The internal security of Israeli settlements during the interim period "should be delegated to the Israeli defence forces...."

**"It is very important to our (Jewish American) community that we be able to join with Arab Americans and Palestinians to look at the security of people so that the peace is lasting and that both Israelis and Palestinians see life is better when the agreement goes into effect."**

— Israel and the PLO "should promptly implement all agreements and honour all commitments reached on September 13, 1993...."

— Final status negotiations stipulated in the Israel-PLO accord "should begin promptly."

— "The Clinton Administration should take a more active and assertive role in all four bilateral tracks of the Middle East peace talks...." The United States, as a full partner in the peace process, should present "bridging proposals

whenever the parties are unable to resolve differences on their own."

On a related issue, Mr. Jahshan said the NAAA is working with the American Jewish community and members of Congress on proposing a "buyout" programme to encourage

been some question of late on whether that policy has in fact changed.

Linda Heller Kamm, president of APN, noted that she attended the March 24 meeting with President Clinton and the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organisations at the White House. During the meeting, Ms. Kamm said the president "indicated that his position on Jerusalem has not changed... and that he understood that Jerusalem is a final status negotiation."

Mr. Jahshan underscored the Arab American community's concern over any possible change in U.S. policy on Jerusalem. "We have been extremely concerned about the statements and the behaviour associated with this issue," he said.

The Arab American community, he said, has made this concern clear in correspondence with the president and in

recent meetings with Vice President Al Gore, Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Assistant Secretary of State Robert Pelletreau. He reported that the community has received "assurances at all levels that the U.S. government position on Jerusalem remains unchanged."

"However," he added, "with all due respect to all these denials, actions speak louder than words. There are some contradictions, and the main contradiction is the wording of the president."

He asserted that perhaps Mr. Clinton's personal view on Jerusalem is at odds with the official U.S. government's view. "This personal view of the president is intruding, is getting mixed up with U.S. foreign policy," he said. Arab American leaders have requested a meeting with the president to "discuss this matter directly," he added.

### Apple debuts Power Macintosh line

On March 14, 1994, Apple Computer, Inc. unveiled Power Macintosh — a new line of Apple Macintosh personal computers that offers the power of workstation computers, the affordability of mainstream personal computers, and the capability to run applications for Macintosh, MS-DOS, and Microsoft Windows.

The company believes that Power Macintosh represents the platform for the next generation of personal computing. Power Macintosh running System 7 marries, for the first time, the power of RISC (reduced instruction set computing) technology with a mainstream personal computing operating system. As such, Apple believes that it has established a foundation that is, at once, so robust and approachable that it will catalyse the development of richer applications, more intuitive software, and, ultimately, wholly new ways of using computers.

The three new Power Macintosh models — the Power Macintosh 6100/60, 7100/66, and 8100/80, join the midrange and high-end of the Macintosh family. Fueled by the PowerPC 601 microprocessor, which was jointly developed by Apple, IBM, and Motorola as part of their historic 1991 alliance, Power Macintosh computers offer the highest performance of any personal computer available today.

When running new versions of application software optimised for PowerPC, Power Macintosh systems

offer two to four times the performance of today's Intel 486 and Motorola 680x0-based personal computers. Power Macintosh computers also outperform systems based on Intel's advanced microprocessor, Pentium. Applications that require complex computation, such as graphics and engineering applications, may run up to 10 times faster on Power Macintosh than on current personal computer offerings. More than 150 software developers worldwide have committed to shipping PowerPC optimised or "native" versions of their applications.

Apple is also providing a bridge from its Power Macintosh systems to thousands of existing applications for DOS and Windows with a new software programme called SoftWindows from Insignia Solutions. SoftWindows comes bundled with certain Power Macintosh configurations and is also sold separately.

With their cross-platform compatibility, Apple expects the new systems to attract Macintosh, DOS, and Windows users. Power Macintosh computers should be particularly popular in professional and mainstream business sectors with customers whose appetite for increased speed and power was only previously met through more costly workstations. These customers would typically use computers for high-performance tasks, including publishing, graphic arts, science and research.

### Forte Grand, Publi - Graphics sign contract

Forte Grand Amman and Publi-Graphics have signed a contract whereby Forte Grand appoints Publi-Graphics Agency as their official advertising agency to handle all advertising and PR activities.

The contract was signed by Charles Barker, general manager of the Forte Grand Amman, and Fouad Abdel Latif, general manager of Publi-Graphics Amman.

Mr. Barker stated later that the Forte Grand, which is already noted for its leading role in the community for special events and exciting activities, will be offering the community more than ever in the coming months. He expressed his excitement about the opportunities and plans ahead.

Mr. Barker added: "We are looking forward to working with Publi-Graphics and developing our plans and stimulating programmes with them." On the other hand, Mr. Abdel Latif said: "Forte Grand is a very prestigious institution" and expressed

Publi-Graphics delight to part in this huge operation."

Forte Grand operates a total of 852 hotels worldwide. Included in their portfolio are 30 Forte Grand properties which offer first class standards of accommodation and service. Forte currently operate six of these properties in the Middle East, including the Forte Grand Amman, the Diplomat in Bahrain, the Forte Grand Dubai in the UAE and the Royal Mansour in Morocco.

In 1993 alone Forte opened two new properties in the region: The Forte Grand Pyramids in Cairo and the Forte Grand Abu Dhabi in the UAE.

Construction on the Forte Grand Jumeira Beach in Dubai is nearing completion and is scheduled to open in summer of 1994. The recent signing of a management contract in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, will increase the number of Forte Grand properties in the Middle East to eight by 1996.

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For Sales Executives 25-35 years maximum .

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maximum .

Others: should have command over both spoken

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Sultanate of Oman.

# Saudi 'no' to OPEC quota cut signals cheap oil

GENEVA (R) — World petroleum prices seem destined to languish in the bargain basement following a Saudi Arabian refusal to cut oil production.

As a result of the weekend decision by the biggest exporter, the best an Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) meeting, which began formally in Geneva Friday, could manage was to freeze current output quotas.

Saturday's accord on the freeze until the end of this year might help prices to a gradual, modest recovery from their collapse in 1993, but Saudi Arabia's resolve to give priority to keeping its share of the market infuriated Iran, its political rival in the Gulf and an OPEC pricing "hawk".

Iran and others in the 12-nation OPEC had wanted one million barrels daily taken off the market now, to lever prices up quickly and to aid their debt-laden economies.

That opportunity "slipped through our hands", said Iran's oil minister, Gholamreza Aqazadeh.

Delegates conceded that OPEC remained a pale shadow of a cartel that, in its heyday in the 1970s, had held the West ransom with a barrel of oil that touched \$40.

Price now are around \$14 a

barrel. After inflation, they are little better than before the 1973 Middle East war when OPEC used shortages caused by an Arab oil embargo against a then much less environmentally conscious West to grab control of pricing.

Independent economists say that, although OPEC treasuries are pinched and even the Saudis have cut spending by 20 per cent, cheap oil generally means less risk of inflation in world terms.

Jittery bond markets kept a wary eye on OPEC in case Iran, not the Saudis, had prevailed and quotas had been lowered.

A cut-price OPEC barrel doesn't always mean a break for the motorist at the pump.

Gasoline in the United States, again in real terms, is probably cheaper than at any time since World War II, but many governments tend to see cut-price crude oil as a chance to slap new excise taxes on refined petroleum products.

OPEC hopes that its accord to freeze quotas now will lead oil company buyers to decide that there will be a tight market when seasonal demand picks up towards the next northern winter.

Leo Drollas, chief economist at the Centre for Global Energy Studies, a "think tank" led by former Saudi oil minister,

Sheikh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, was in Geneva to monitor the OPEC talks.

He said demand for OPEC oil by the year-end would be more than a million barrels daily above OPEC's quota ceiling, now reimposed, of 24.52 million, so prices by December were likely to be at least \$1 higher than now.

Acrimony marked the OPEC meeting as, in the Gulf, Saudis and Iran feuded over how many Iranian pilgrims Saudi Arabia will admit for the annual Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca.

Gulf sources said Saudi Arabia entered the talks resolved to defend its market share and with no intention of cutting its quota of eight million barrels daily, a third of all OPEC oil.

Delegates said it seems to see that as its absolute minimum until the U.N. lifts its Gulf war embargo on Iraqi oil sales.

Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer also treated a stunned opening OPEC to a lecture, making clear his scepticism that Iran and others like Nigeria would honour new, lower quotas.

The Saudis blame the 1993 pricing collapse on OPEC quota violators, along with higher non-OPEC output from the North Sea and global recession that cramped fuel demand.



OPEC Secretary-General Sabroto (left) chats with Abdullah Bin Hamad Al Attiyah, Qatar's

Sheikh Nazer asked how he could get a guarantee that if his country surrendered barrels it would get a return on a higher price.

A Gulf delegate said the blunt Saudi message was "go away and sort out a cut among yourselves, if that's what you want, but leave us out." Efforts to do this soon fizzled.

Iran's Aqazadeh kept his wrath for a news conference. He said cheap oil had cost debt-laden Iran \$3.5 billion in six months, adding that responsibility "rests on the shoulders of those who did not contribute."

The atmosphere in OPEC had been good, he declared. Then, he implied, Saudi King Fahd ordered a final Saudi

"no".

Mr. Aqazadeh said that at noon on Saturday "I was informed that Saudi Arabia had received the directive from home that they would not accept any cut in production."

A Saudi source replied that any implication of a shift in the Saudi stance was "absolutely not true."

## White House looks to Europe, Canada for job training ideas

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton borrowed other nations' ideas for re-fashioning the nation's unemployment system, but labour Secretary Robert Reich says Mr. Clinton's proposed reemployment act is tailored for the United States.

The president earlier this month asked Congress to spend \$13 billion over five years to create all-inclusive career centres offering counselling, job placement and enrollment in training programmes to those out of work.

Congressional hearings on the legislation have not yet been scheduled.

Mr. Clinton said the current system of 150 federal jobs programmes operated by 24 agencies was designed for an economy that no longer exists. Laid-off workers are less likely than ever to return to their original jobs.

Labour Department officials searched for ideas in programmes operated by U.S. trading partners, borrowing the portions they considered adaptable to the United States and its workers.

U.S. residents change jobs

far more frequently than Canadians, Europeans or Japanese, making it difficult to copy those countries' programmes. While the Japanese expect to spend their entire adult lives at one employer, Americans on average hold seven jobs.

"No nation has anywhere near the amount of job changes we do, so there are few direct lessons to learn from other nations," Mr. Reich said.

Still, there are noticeable similarities.

"You'll probably see a lot of familiar things" when comparing the Clinton recommendations with programmes in Canada and Europe, Mr. Reich said. Few ideas for the reemployment act were borrowed from Japan, where businesses rarely lay off workers.

But the administration did study the Japanese system's training programme for students who choose not to attend college.

"They do have many good programmes for getting young people from school to work," Mr. Reich said.

Programmes used by other nations cannot be borrowed directly because "every culture is different," Mr. Reich said. "But there are good ideas elsewhere that seem to work and have a reasonable chance of working here."

The reemployment act would encourage employers considering layoffs to reduce worker hours across the board instead. The employees could then receive unemployment benefits to make up the lost income.

Canada already has such a programme, which it calls job sharing. During economic slowdowns, companies can reduce their work weeks by one to three days. Employees draw partial unemployment benefits until the economy improves.

Mr. Clinton also wants people who start new businesses after losing their jobs to receive unemployment benefits for up to 18 months while their ventures get off the ground. The Canadians already are doing that successfully.

The president's plan would require the new entrepreneurs to receive training and counselling.

Britain already has the "one-stop shopping" Mr. Clinton and Mr. Reich have talked about, providing information about job vacancies and counselling, to displaced workers applying for unemployment benefits.

Administration officials considered, but decided against, a 1.5 per cent payroll tax on all employers to pay for worker training programmes. That idea came from France, which requires companies to spend a percentage of their payrolls on worker training and retraining.

"Our hope is companies will do this on their own," Mr. Reich said. "Studies show a direct relation between profitability and the extent to which companies invest in their workers."

"From the experiences of other countries, it's clear that income support without training and without job search assistance doesn't work very well," he said. "In fact, it can boomerang and reduce the ability of people to get jobs after a time because they lose connection to the job market."

## Kenya urged to make more radical reforms

NAIROBI (R) — A private think-tank has urged the Kenyan government to implement more radical economic reforms to win direct foreign investment vital to ending years of reliance on international aid.

The Nairobi-based Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) said measures to encourage investment, such as continued financial and trade liberalisation and a fully liberalised exchange regime, were necessary if Kenya's development was to take off.

"Longer term measures should include concerted efforts to raise the level of domestic savings to ensure a higher proportion of investment is financed from domestic resources," said the IEA in a report.

It said good government and sound economic management would enhance the effectiveness of aid, which stands at about \$850 million annually to this East African nation of 25.7 million people.

"At the same time, efforts to achieve macro-economic stability improves the attractiveness of Kenya as an area of investment, and also lowers the cost of foreign borrowing," it added.

Kenya last year launched sweeping reforms including the flotation of local currency, treasury bills to mop up excess liquidity, the removal of export and import restrictions and the

liberalisation of the maize trade to kickstart its economy. Finance Minister Musalia Mudavadi says these measures, taken at the urging of the West, pushed down prices of essential commodities and cut inflation to just over 50 per cent from a 101 per cent peak last June.

In November, Kenya's mainly Western donors pledged \$850 million in fresh aid. At the time they ended a two-year ban on quick-disbursing aid which was imposed in 1991 to force President Daniel Arap Moi into political and economic reforms.

To improve the efficiency of donor aid, the IEA called for closer scrutiny of projects to identify successful ones and the removal of regulations that encourage corruption and hinder their work.

Donors have previously complained that bureaucracy and bad management delayed completion of many donor-funded projects.

It urged donors to strengthen coordination to monitor aid, to cancel all non-performing loans, to target projects which benefit the poor.

The IEA said government reluctance to end high-level corruption, increased violence in Nairobi, a general malaise in the civil service and resistance to reforms discouraged investment.

## Indonesia records first budget deficit in 27 years

JAKARTA (AFP) — Indonesia's state budget for fiscal year 1993-94, to end on March 31, recorded a deficit of 1.800 billion rupiah (\$840.73 million). Finance Minister Mar'ie Mohammad said.

Mr. Mohammad was quoted by the official Antara News Agency as saying in parliament that actual state receipts in 1993-94 were 62.65 trillion rupiah (\$29.26 billion) while expenses reached 64.46 trillion rupiah (\$30.10 billion).

The parliament Saturday approved the amendment to the budget, which recorded the

first-ever deficit in the 27-year rule of President Suharto.

Mr. Mohammad said the reason for the deficit was that routine and development expenditures had exceeded what had been planned. But earlier in the month he said that falling oil prices would lead to a budget deficit in 1993-94.

The government, when it announced the state draft budget for 1993-94 in January, balanced income and expenditure at 62.32 trillion rupiah (\$30.21 billion at the exchange rate then), based on an average oil price of \$18 a barrel.

## Assets of Bahrain OBU's drop in 1993

MANAMA (R) — Total assets of offshore banking units (OBUs) operating in Bahrain dropped 13.7 per cent to \$60.20 billion in 1993, official figures released Sunday showed.

The Bahrain Monetary Agency (BMA) said in its quarterly bulletin OBU assets at end-December 1992 were \$69.77 billion.

The figure for the end of 1993 also showed a small drop of 1.2 per cent from \$60.93 billion three months earlier.

The BMA did not say how many OBUs were operating at the end of 1993 but these were put at 43 units at the end of September.

There were 75 units in Bahrain, the Gulf's main financial centre, at the height of the 1970s oil boom.

OBU assets peaked to \$72.58 billion at end-1989 but declined sharply to as low as \$53.38 billion at the end of 1991, caused by the loss of international confidence during the Gulf crisis.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY MARCH 28, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** The double moon square to Neptune and Uranus and the Venus opposition don't get this week off to a great start. Don't be taken in by outsiders. Adopt the best philosophy that you can under the circumstances.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Be quick in a better meeting of minds with associates and increase productivity. You can make a fine impression on others now by what you accomplish.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Be more cooperative with associates and establish more harmony. Routine duties should be handled with precision now for prosperity to occur.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Be quick in seizing a new opportunity to advance in your line of endeavour. Handle business affairs wisely and be poised to handle any situation.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) You are able to gain a cherished aim at this time. Be sure not to neglect important routines, there by you can think constructively.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Come to a greater accord with associates so that you can work more harmoniously with them. Make plans for the days ahead with any project.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Plan your activities early

since the planets are favourable now. You have excellent ideas that should be put in operation now.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) This is the time to put a special talent you have to work and gain the recognition you deserve. Sidelight one who is belligerent to you.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) You are now inspired and can find new activities through which to express yourself and become more successful. Try to avoid a foe.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Have a serious talk with the one you love and patch up any differences you may have. Relax at home tonight for peace of mind.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) You can reach a far better understanding with an associate now as you can get much more accomplished than usual than ever before.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) You can be gregarious now and gain excellent results. Your hunches are accurate at this time, so use them to your benefit for success.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Try to entertain your associates now and come to a better understanding. Find a better way to gain the favour of a friend which will benefit you.

## Arab Gulf trade surplus with Japan persisted in 1993

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab Gulf states recorded a surplus in their trade balance with Japan for the 20th successive year in 1993 despite a sharp decline in oil prices, trade analysts in the region have said.

While no official figures have been released on last year's trade, the balance was largely in favour of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in the first half of the year, standing at \$7.32 billion.

Figures provided by the Japanese External Trade Organisation (JETRO) showed Japan's exports to the GCC stood at \$4.78 billion in the first half of 1993 and imports at \$12.1 billion.

"During the second half of the year, Japan's imports from the GCC could have slightly declined in value due to a fall in oil prices. Exports could also have dropped due to lower demand for Japanese products because of the stronger yen," a Gulf-based Japanese economist said.

"The figures I have for the first 10 months of 1993 support this trend. This indicates that the trade surplus remains in favour of the GCC and it could be near the 1992 level of \$15.6 billion," he added.

Japan has remained the biggest single commercial partner of the GCC, with their two-way trade peaking at \$37 billion in 1992, nearly one third of the total trade of the six members. The high exchange is due to its large imports of Gulf oil, estimated at 2.6 million barrels per day (b/d).

The oil import bill has largely exceeded Japanese exports to the region, creating a persistent high surplus over the past two decades.

The surplus hit a record \$25 billion in 1980, when oil prices were as high as \$30. It sharply fluctuated in the following years due to a steep fall in crude prices and large changes in Japanese exports.

According to a study by the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Com-

merce and Industry, Japan's exports to GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — grew by 11.6 per cent between 1980 and 1984 but plummeted by 40 per cent between 1985 and 1989.

They, however, started to recover in the following years, soaring by 11.6 per cent in 1990, 25.2 per cent in 1991 and 27.7 per cent in 1992, when they stood at around \$9.7 billion.

"The Japanese exports to the GCC fell by around 15 per cent in the first half of 1993 compared with the same period of 1992," the study said. "This is due to a general economic downturn in the region and the rise in the yen against the U.S. dollar, with which GCC currencies are linked."

Japanese officials say the persistent surplus in trade with the GCC has no impact on Tokyo's total trade balance as its exports to the six members account for only 2.8 per cent of its total exports. They noted Japan's trade balance recorded a surplus of \$57.3 billion in the first half of 1993.

The bulk of Japan's exports to the GCC are electronic and electric appliances, home appliances, and cars. Its imports from the region are mainly crude oil, gas, petrochemicals, and aluminium.

According to JETRO, Japan has dominated the Gulf electronics market over the past decade, with a share of around 70 per cent. It is followed by the European Union, with a share of 15 per cent, the United States, 10 per cent, and the rest is provided by South Korea, Taiwan and other Asian countries.

Japan's car exports also account for more than half the vehicle market in the Gulf, supplying more than 340,000 automobiles in 1992.

Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil producer, has remained the biggest, Middle East market for Japanese products, with an import value of \$4.8 billion.

## JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argentin

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MOIFT

INFE

TAYFUL

MESSTY

Print answer here: \_\_\_\_\_

Yesterday's Jumbles: GNOME WEDGE HOTBED MAMMAL

Answer: What the kids did at the park — THEY "GAMBOLED"

(Answers tomorrow)

THE Daily Crossword by Virginia L. Yates

ACROSS

1 Rascal

6 Rainy day gear

11 Meat ball

14 Homage

15 "— for you,"

16 Alphabet run

17 Losing

18 Calendar abbr.

20 Tableland

21 Paths: abbr.

22 Gilt

24 Wrath

26 High and dry

27 Rejoiced

31 Improper

32 A. Fleming

33 Confounds

35 Pipsqueak

38 Bendable

40 Neither's pal

41 Buy use of

42 Long

43 Bellowing, often

46 Enrapture

48 Tippy

50 Sides

52 Whip opener

53 City north of Springfield

54 151

56 Straw man?

58 Greek letter

61 Getting what-for

64 Vestibule sound

65 Letter gizmo

66 Gene Tierney

67 Broad

68 Decree

69 Emerson piece

DOWN

1 Wooden filler

2 Fir piece

3 Kelp

4 Angora fleece

5 Ant's kin

6 Even up

7 Prying tools

8 Fan, member

9 Oriental pheasants

Hey-can't you read?

NO SMOKING

WHEN HE LIT UP IN A NO SMOKING AREA HE LEFT OTHERS

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: \_\_\_\_\_

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GNOME WEDGE HOTBED MAMMAL

Answer: What the kids did at the park — THEY "GAMBOLED"

(Answers tomorrow)

## South Korea's Goldstar invests \$160m in China

BEIJING (AFP) — South Korean electronics giant Goldstar signed two contracts worth \$160 million to create joint ventures in China, the China Daily has reported.

The largest contract, worth \$140 million, will set up a television spare parts factory in southern Changsha, the report said.

Goldstar also signed a \$19.5 million contract to produce video recorders in Shanghai.

## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n'Jeff



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## Heavy Muslim-Serb fighting reported in northern Bosnia

SARAJEVO (AP) — Bosnian Serb and Muslim-led government forces battled in northern Bosnia, reports said Sunday. The government claimed its troops were advancing and inflicting heavy losses.

In Sarajevo, U.S. envoy Charles Redman addressed an assembly of Serbs who still live on government-controlled land and promised continued Western support to cement the peace in Bosnia.

Bosnian government radio, Bosnian Serb and United Nations spokesmen in Sarajevo all reported fighting in the region of Teslic-Tesanj-Doboj in a part of northern Bosnia bordering the troubled town of Maglaj.

U.N. peacekeepers destroyed a Serb bunker near Maglaj, 50 kilometres (50 miles) north of Sarajevo, after a seven-hour battle Friday.

Bosnian Serbs looted an aid convoy headed for Maglaj a few days earlier.

Bosnian radio claimed that government forces had captured some key Serb positions, killed 70 Bosnian Serb troops, and were advancing on the area, there was no confirmation of the report.

But Bosnian Serb military sources were quoted by Belgrade's Tanjug News Agency as reporting "intensive" attacks by government forces in the area. They said all the attacks were repelled.

In Sarajevo, U.N. spokesman Maj. Simon MacDowell confirmed there was fighting in the area and that it was possible that the government had made some advances.

Bosnian Serbs also claimed that a Serb soldier had been killed and another wounded by a government commando group that infiltrated Serb lines on Mount Igman, southwest of Sarajevo.

A report by the Bosnian Serbs' News Agency (SRNA), claimed the government troops came from U.N.-controlled territory, and said a protest had been filed with the United Nations.

Mr. Redman also was in Sarajevo, and addressed an assembly representing Serbs who still live on Bosnian government territory. Mr. Redman praised the gathering as a sign that "the political life of Bosnia-Herzegovina is still alive and well."

He promised the "continued full support of the United States and the international community" to bring peace. Mr. Redman was scheduled to meet with Bosnian Serbs outside of Sarajevo Monday.

Also Monday, a constitutional assembly was to open in the Bosnian capital to set up a transitional government for a new Croat-Muslim federation until new elections are held.

On the political front, President Alija Izetbegovic was elected president of the Muslims' Party of Democratic Action. He had relinquished that post while serving as head of the federal collective presidency. Bosnian radio reported.

Political observers in Sarajevo interpreted that to mean Mr. Izetbegovic would not seek the presidency of the new federation. There were unconfirmed reports that Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic would take his place.

Bosnian Croat leaders met Saturday in Mostar and endorsed the accord creating the federation. Croatian radio reported. They suggested that the constitutional assembly elect a Croat head of the transitional government, with a Muslim vice president.

Croat militias and the Muslim-led government were allies at the start of the war, which broke out in April 1992 when Bosnian Serbs armed by the Yugoslav army rebelled against secession from Yugoslavia and grabbed 70 per cent of Bosnia. The Croat-Muslim alliance collapsed into fighting over land unclaimed by Serbs until it was resurrected under U.S. pressure.

More than 200,000 people are believed dead or missing in Bosnia's war.

KARACHI (AP) — At least four people were fatally shot, a number of cars were torched and much of the city was shut down Sunday in response to a strike called by a political opposition group.

Karachi, a sprawling port city of some 10 million people, has been troubled by repeated confrontations between the security forces and the Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), a political party opposed to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government.

MQM supporters waged gun battles with police and army troops in several parts of the city, the security forces said. Youths pelted cars with stones and set at least 10 vehicles on fire, including several government buses.

The four people killed and nine people injured were all civilians, according to police and hospital workers. Security forces patrolled the largely deserted streets in



A mini-bus set ablaze by a mob during a protest day called by the ethnic-based Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), burns in the street. Violence erupted in the city to protest alleged harassment of a young woman MQM member, Naheed Butt, during an army raid at her residence (AFP photo)

## Strike shuts down Karachi; 4 killed

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The four people killed and nine people injured were all civilians, according to police and hospital workers. Security forces patrolled the largely deserted streets in

armoured vehicles. Sunday is a working day in Pakistan, but many people stayed at home.

Businesses, schools and shops were closed in many parts of the city, particularly the east and central sections where MQM support is strong.

The downtown business district was the least affected. Many companies were open, but worker attendance was low because many buses and taxis were not operating.

## ANC official calls for stiff measures to protect voters in strife-torn Natal

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Stiff security measures are needed to protect people in violence-torn Natal province who want to take part in South Africa's first all-race election, a top African National Congress (ANC) official said Sunday.

In Natal, Zulu nationalists who oppose the ANC and the election reportedly occupied a sports stadium where the ANC was scheduled to hold a rally, and state radio reported the house of the region's top ANC official was set on fire.

Jacob Zuma, ANC deputy secretary general and candidate for regional premier in the upcoming election, told the South African Broadcasting Corp. that anti-ANC pamphlets were found near his burned house in Nxamalala in northern Natal. There was no immediate report on how badly the house was damaged.

Dozens of people have died in Natal in the past week in clashes between ANC supporters and Zulu nationalists.

President F.W. de Klerk met Saturday with Mangosuthu Buthezi, leader of the KwaZulu homeland in Natal and the Zulu nationalist Inkatha Freedom Party, to discuss the violence and Mr. Buthezi's opposition to the

April 26-28 election. But they failed to resolve whether Mr. Buthezi would order his thousands of police and armed followers to permit free political activity.

"There is a cloud of fear that is permeating throughout the community in Natal. People are even fearful of even being seen walking to the polls," ANC Secretary General Cyril Ramaphosa told a Cape Town news conference Sunday.

He called for South African troops and police to take over the KwaZulu police and control the unrest, so residents of the homeland and Natal could vote in peace.

The nation's Transitional Executive Council (TEC) — a multiracial body overseeing the government until the election — meets Monday and Mr. Ramaphosa said it would discuss the Natal situation. The TEC and South African government already have used South African forces to take control of two other black homelands this month, including one where the homeland leader was resisting the election.

"There are bands of people who are going through (Natal) armed to the teeth attacking people (with) the security forces not taking any action."

Mr. Ramaphosa said. "We are going to insist that security forces must protect the lives of our people — they must also ensure that there is free political activity."

The ANC is favoured to win the April vote and lead the first post-apartheid government.

Mr. Buthezi fears an ANC government will wipe out KwaZulu, the traditional Zulu homeland and the base of his power. He wants an autonomous Zulu region free of domination by the ANC so he can maintain his power and privileges enjoyed under apartheid.

Mr. Ramaphosa said Sunday the election will mean the end of the homelands, with leaders like Mr. Buthezi losing their jobs.

International mediators have arrived in South Africa to try to resolve the dispute between the ANC and Mr. Buthezi over the powers of regional governments under a new constitution that takes effect after the election. Mr. Buthezi wants the regions to have autonomous powers, while the ANC says the constitution, drafted at multiparty talks dominated by the ANC and government, gives sufficient federal powers to regional governments.

## Greece urged to lift Macedonia embargo

IOANNINA, Greece (R) — Greece's European Union (EU) partners told Athens to lift its trade embargo on the neighbouring former Yugoslavia Republic of Macedonia or face legal action, diplomatic sources said Sunday.

They said 11 EU foreign ministers put on a strong united front against the Greek trade embargo during an informal meeting in this northwest town, saying it was unacceptable and illegal.

"Greece was told that we see no justification for this action under the Maastricht Treaty and that they should lift the embargo immediately," a delegation source said.

The sources said the EU commissioner for external political affairs, Hans Van Den Broek, would meet Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu in Athens Monday to drive home the point that there was no sympathy for the embargo.

The EU Commission has threatened to take Greece to the European Court over the trade sanctions and the sources said that several countries wanted to go ahead with this action.

Meanwhile, the European Union's Greek presidency Sunday put forward a compromise plan to resolve a row over voting rights and Spain said it looked like producing a breakthrough.

## White House defends top aides on Whitewater report

DALLAS (R) — The White House defended top aides to President Bill Clinton Saturday on charges they inquired about removing a prominent Republican from an investigation related to the Whitewater land deal.

"It was perfectly natural that White House officials would be surprised" by the Resolution Trust Corporation's (RTC) hiring of Republican lawyer Jay Stephens to look into the failure of Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan, White House counsel Lloyd Cutler said in a statement released to reporters travelling with the president in Dallas.

Mr. Cutler was responding to reports Saturday in the Washington Post and Time magazine that senior Clinton advisers George Stephanopoulos and Deputy White House Chief of Staff Harold Ickes were alarmed and outraged when they discovered in late February that the RTC, an independent regulatory agency, had hired the former federal prosecutor to handle possible civil suits growing out of Madison's failure.

White House spokesman

Jeff Eller told reporters that the president and White House Chief of Staff Thomas "Mac" McLarty fully supported their top aides.

"Mac stands fully behind George and the president stands fully behind George," Mr. Eller said. Asked by reporters whether Mr. Ickes or Mr. Stephanopoulos had offered their resignations over the flap, Mr. Eller replied "absolutely not."

The reports said the advisers spoke to Treasury officials about the matter and asked about getting Mr. Stephens removed. If true, the efforts to find out whether Mr. Stephens could be replaced would mark the first time the White House had been shown to have actively tried to affect the handling of the politically sensitive investigation of Madison and its ties to the Whitewater Development Corp., a failed land deal in which Mr. Clinton and his wife Hillary were investors.

The reports prompted fresh calls by Republicans for congressional hearings into the Whitewater affair.

"When White House politi-

al operatives may be playing fast and loose with a politically independent agency, Congress has an obligation to exercise its oversight authority and establish the facts," Senate Republican Bob Dole said in a statement released in Washington.

Mr. Cutler said he did not know all the facts because special prosecutor Robert Fiske has requested that the White House not interview witnesses while Mr. Fiske is conducting his investigation.

"What I do know is that Mr. Stephens was an outspoken political opponent of the president, and it was perfectly natural that White House officials would be surprised by his appointment to look into the Madison Guaranty matter."

"As with other discussions with Treasury officials, it certainly would have been better had these conversations not occurred," Mr. Cutler said.

"At the same time, these conversations should not be blown out of proportion," he said, adding that "no one has suggested that any action was taken to remove Mr. Stephens and, of course, he is still con-

ducting the RTC civil inquiry." Mr. Stephens had been highly critical of the Clinton administration after he was fired last year as a U.S. attorney along with other Republican appointees. He had been probing allegations involving House Ways and Means Chairman Dan Rostenkowski, a powerful Democrat from Illinois.

Time and the Washington Post, quoting unnamed sources, said Mr. Stephanopoulos and Mr. Ickes asked about Mr. Stephens and whether he could be fired in a telephone conversation with Deputy Treasury Secretary Roger Altman, who was also acting head of the Resolution Trust Corporation, the agency charged with closing failed savings and loan institutions.

Time said Mr. Stephanopoulos also spoke about Mr. Stephens to Treasury Chief of Staff Joshua Steiner, who is to talk to Mr. Fiske and a Whitewater grand jury this week.

The reports said the matter was dropped after the aides were told by Mr. Altman and Mr. Steiner nothing could be done.

## Pay dirt garbage men rescue diamonds from landfill

BABYLON, N.Y. (AP) — Think it's hard finding a needle in a haystack? Try looking for two diamond rings in mounds of ripe garbage. Using hard work, logic and a little luck, intrepid Sanitation foreman Dan Lake and three other workers found the diamonds in the yuck. The rings' owner, Helen David, 85, thanked her newfound heroes in a ceremony at — where else? — the town dump. The diamond and sapphire rings gifts from Mrs. David's husband and grandmother. On Thursday, she left them in a piece of aluminum foil while she washed her hands. Then she tossed the foil into the trash. Hours later, she realised what she had done and called the landfill in a panic.

Using Mrs. David's address, Mr. Lake and his co-workers figured out which truck had her garbage. It was already 4 1/2 line for the incinerator. "Those rings were on their way to destruction," Mr. Lake said. "Then the lady came out to the landfill and she was just crying so hard and was upset. We all felt sorry for her." Scouring garbage with their hands and rakes in a 12-by-12-foot (4-by-4-metre) area, the men ripped open bags and pieces of foil, after 45 minutes — pay dirt. "When I opened the package, it just shined," Mr. Lake said. "There was a nice ring to it."

The workers returned the rings, which have never been appraised, to Mrs. David, who was waiting in a car. "She was crying and then she saw the rings and she was crying even harder and then she kissed us all," Mr. Lake said. For Lake, it was just "a regular day" at the dump. "It was nothing like when we had to look for some false teeth last year."

## Malaysia reviews ban on film

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — The Malaysian government will review a decision by the local censorship board to ban the Oscar-winning movie Schindler's List, Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said Saturday. Mr. Anwar's statement gave no reason for reviewing the ban which has been vociferously attacked by local film directors and critics as well as several overseas organisations.

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad said Wednesday that Malaysia had the right to ban any movie, although he added then that he was not aware of the ban on U.S. film director Steven Spielberg's Schindler's List, which won seven Oscars at the 66th annual Academy Awards last Monday. Officials said the National Film Censorship Board, which comes under the Home Ministry portfolio held by Mr. Mahathir, had sent a letter to the film's distributor, Universal International Pictures, informing them that the movie had been banned with immediate effect. Overseas reports have suggested that Malaysia banned the movie because the censors deemed it as being too pro-Jewish.

"We have consistently condemned all forms of atrocities, past and present, be they by the Nazis against the Jews, the Zionists against the Palestinians or the Serbs against the Bosnians," Mr. Anwar was quoted by the Bernama News Agency as saying in the statement. Predominantly-Muslim Malaysia is a strong supporter of a Palestinian homeland, and has no diplomatic ties with Israel. It has also been a vocal critic of the West over what it sees as indecisiveness in halting the victimisation of Muslims in Bosnia.

While describing Schindler's List as a "powerful moral voice against crime towards humanity," Mr. Anwar said the message in the movie was however "beyond the specific event portrayed."

11-year-old charged with drug possession

WOOD DALE, Ill. (AP) — An 11-year-old girl has been charged with bringing cocaine to her junior high school and sharing it with her friends. The sixth-grader was charged with delivery of cocaine and faces juvenile court proceedings next month. Six other students allegedly sampled the drug Tuesday. All seven were suspended from school for varying lengths of time, said school superintendent Michael Smoot. "This may be the first time someone has been caught with it here, but it's definitely not the first time it has happened," said Isaac Siprian, a trustee officer in the Chicago suburb. "Heaven forbid she's actually dealing the stuff, like young kids do in the city."

## Congress questions U.S. two-war strategy

WASHINGTON (R) — As tensions grow on the troubled Korean peninsula, doubts are also growing in Congress that the slimmed-down U.S. military can fulfil its new strategy of being able to fight two wars at the same time.

America's generals agree that the strategy has risks. The new post-cold war plan under President Bill Clinton, which includes deep military budget cuts, has drawn special attention as the U.S. tries to deal with suspicions that a heavily-armed North Korea is developing nuclear weapons.

"The idea that we could go into Korea and win that thing, and have our forces available somewhere else immediately is very, very optimistic," Senator John Glenn, an Ohio Democrat, told reporters recently.

U.S. generals said at congressional hearings this month they believed they could fight and win two Gulf-like conflicts despite the defence cuts, but that there were risks.

Among those risks, according to Air Force Chief of Staff General Merrill McPeak, is a potential shortage of heavy bombers, which were crucial in the Gulf war, and the fact they will not be refitted to drop precision-guided bombs until late in the decade.

"I have a tough time thinking we (air force bombers) could fight two Koreas or two Vietnams in the middle years of this decade," Gen. McPeak told the Senate Armed Services Committee.

The post-cold war strategy would throw heavy U.S. forces into the first war and pull troops out of peacekeeping and other operations to organise a second war force.

The commander of U.S. forces in Korea said at a Senate hearing if war broke out there at the same time as a conflict in the Middle East, Seoul might be overrun before U.S. reinforcements arrived.

"We are very concerned about that very thing," said army General Gary Luck.

He said the U.S. military command in the Pacific and Middle East have begun a study on how to get enough force to each war to prevent overwhelming losses at the start.

For Gen. Luck, the prospect of having to wait for a second war force is hypothetical. In fact, the greatest danger of war at the moment is in Korea and Gen. Luck said the U.S. plan is to rush a force of nearly 400,000 troops there if war becomes likely.

The new two-war strategy was developed by the Defence Department under former Defence Secretary Les Aspin last summer to replace cold war nuclear conflict strategy.

Defence planners had considered a "fight-and-hold" policy of fighting one war and reserving only enough force to deter or fight major attacks by any other enemies.

But they decided only a strategy of being able to fight two Gulf-like wars would deter another enemy from launching a second war in hopes U.S. forces could not fight two.

## S. Korean president in Beijing for nuclear talks

BEIJING (R) — South Korean President Kim Young-Sam arrived in Beijing Sunday seeking China's cooperation in defusing rising tension over North Korea's nuclear programme.

As he travelled from Shanghai to the Chinese capital, North Korea warned Seoul that U.S. plans to put more sophisticated weapons in South Korea would only push the peninsula toward a "catastrophic war phase."

Accusing U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry of launching a weapons buildup, the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said remarks he had made "fully revealed the dangerous scheme of the U.S. imperialists to unhesitatingly lead the situation on the Korean peninsula to a catastrophic war phase."

Mr. Perry told a press conference Friday the United States should beef up its ability to defend its ally South Korea, though he did not believe there was an imminent military crisis on the peninsula.

"It is the U.S. imperialist war hawks who are creating the danger of 'accidental developments' on the Korean peninsula and it is again them who are driving the situation to the brink of war," said KCNA.

## India prepares for war in Kashmir — Pakistan

KURDARA, Pakistan-controlled Kashmir (AFP) — Indian troops are building concrete bunkers in Kashmir and their movements indicate plans for a limited war, a senior Pakistani army officer said at this forward post.

"They are making concrete bunkers regularly," said General Ghulam Khajia, a brigade commander at the Nikial sector outpost 5,635 foot (1,690 metres) up in the Pir Panjal Mountains.

The Pakistani position, adjacent to Poonch City in the Indian-held part of Kashmir, is about a kilometre as the crow flies from the line of control that divides the state between its two rival neighbours.

"The apparent Indian intention is a limited war with Pakistan," the brigadier told reporters flown into the sector Saturday by the army. The war he envisaged would be of short duration and scattered over selected areas.

Brig. Khajia said India had built and manned military posts every 300 metres (1,000 feet) and seeded surrounding territory with anti-tank mines.

Displaying some anti-personnel mines he said were laid by Indians on this side of the disputed border, Brig. Khajia said India had constructed three-tier forward, middle and rear lines.

Indian villages in a three kilometre (two-mile) belt had been evacuated and troops equipped with early detection and night-vision systems. Forward posts also had trained dogs, he said.

Pakistan and India have fought two wars for control of Kashmir since the two countries won independence in 1947.

The media trip was the first since bilateral relations plunged to a new low in the wake of a four-year "freedom struggle" in the southern part of Kashmir controlled by India, which blames the unrest

## Ukrainians vote in 1st elections since independence

KIEV (AP) — Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk said he hoped voters would choose a pro-reform parliament in Sunday's election and warned Crimea he would never allow the Black Sea peninsula to defect to Russia.

Elections officials were predicting a strong turnout, but said the vast number of candidates and competing platforms might confuse voters.

The Crimea and parts of eastern Ukraine were also holding plebiscites on closer ties with Russia.

Ukraine's first election since independence from the Soviet Union in 1991 could worsen tensions between the pro-Russian east and the west, where Ukrainian nationalists are the strongest force.

Opinion polls have shown voters in the east tend to favour Communists or Socialists who are pro-Russian, while nationalist and pro-market candidates have a better chance in western Ukraine.

The polls opened at 7 a.m. (0400 GMT) and voting was brisk on a crisp, sunny day. Polls closed at 8 p.m. (1700 GMT) and the first results were expected Monday, at the earliest.

By noon (0900 GMT), 37 per cent of the 36 million registered voters had cast their ballots, a 50 per cent turnout is needed for the election to be valid.

At a polling station in the village of Boyarka, 25 kilometres (19 miles south of Kiev), vodka, champagne and salami were on sale and a folk ensemble in colourful national dress performed.

Election officials looked the other way when the heads of households continued an old Soviet tradition of voting for their whole family.

After voting in Kiev, Mr. Kravchuk said he hoped the new parliament would be "responsible, reformist and professional so it could lead the country toward democracy."

The helicopter carrying journalists stopped at several posts along the fragile border. Officers pointed out mud houses pock-marked by gunfire.

Officers at different places said there had been a "sharp increase" in Indian attacks on border villages since 1989, when Muslim militants started a bloody resistance movement against Indian rule.

Brig. Khajia, in response to questions, did not rule out the possibility that Israel officers were assisting Indian forces in Kashmir.

"We could see some people in different uniforms. Are they commandos or foreigners, we don't know," he said.

Reporting "some change" in activity across the border, he said that at times "we feel somebody is directing them to go on a killing spree."

Lieutenant Colonel Inayat Wali, commander of the Tetri Note Post in the Rawlakot sector, said India routinely fired on border villages at night, at a cost of several civilian lives.

Military casualties are "very rare," as India's aim seems to be to "demoralise" the population by unleashing "terror" on both sides of the border, another officer said.

But he said the villagers were prepared to make "sacrifices for their cause."

The army let journalists talk to hundreds of refugees who had allegedly fled Indian "atrocities" and civilians who suffered loss of limbs or serious bullet injuries in attacks over the past few months. They included women and children.

A six-year-old girl was recovering from two bullet wounds. A three-year-old boy was the youngest victim. His father, who had a fractured arm, told reporters that some Indian "saboteurs" placed a bomb outside his home, which was detonated by Indian tracer fire.

## Hack beats Martinez in Houston Slims semis

HOUSTON (AP) — Sabine Hack avenged a loss to Conchita Martinez in the finals of last year's Virginia Slims of Houston by beating her 2-6, 6-4, 6-4 Saturday in a semifinal.

Hack, the seventh seed, will play no. 4 seed Mary Pierce in the final. Earlier Saturday, Pierce overpowered unseeded Asa Carlinson 6-2, 6-2.

Top-seeded Martinez, who beat Hack the first four times they met, led 4-2 in the second set when she began to tire. "I was controlling the match perfectly," Martinez said. "Then I started getting tired. Playing against the wind with her high balls was really tiring."

It was Martinez's first-ever loss in Houston in six matches. "In the beginning I was playing so defensive she didn't have to move," Hack said. "She kept moving me around with her forehand."

Hack turned things around in the final two sets of the two-hour, 17-minute match. "I could see she was getting tired," Hack said. "I started moving her around more."

Pierce won the first seven points of her match, breaking Carlinson in the second game. Carlinson broke back in the third game, but it was her only service break of the match.

"I had to work hard for every point," Pierce said. "It was really windy. Whoever had the wind had trouble."

Pierce won on her first match point with a cross-court passing shot after chasing down a drop shot by Carlinson.

Pierce was not as lucky in doubles, where she and Andrea Temesvari lost a semifinal to Manon Bollegraf and Martina Navratilova 7-6 (7-4) 4-6 3-6.

## Extra World Cup places for Asia and Concacaf

TUNIS (R) — Asia and Concacaf will both be guaranteed an extra, third place at the 2002 World Cup finals, FIFA President Joao Havelange said Friday.

But he ruled out a fourth place for African teams in the tournament until at least 2006.

"I have told the Africans that each bit of progress will come in good time. For the time being, they will have to wait," said Havelange.

Africa currently has three places at the World Cup finals, while Asia and Concacaf — the grouping of North and Central American and the Caribbean — have two each. The new places will be at the expense of Europe, who currently have 13.

Europe lost one of their places in the 1994 finals to Africa. FIFA recently announced

plans for a play-off match between an Asian team and a European country in the qualifying competition for the 1998 finals, which would allow Asia the possibility of a third participant in the tournament in France.

The top two finishers at the Asian qualifying tournament will automatically qualify, and the third-placed side will play off over two legs against a European qualifier for another place at the World Cup finals.

The FIFA president also confirmed he is to meet with the presidents of the five different continental federations in Zurich April 5 to discuss the future of his presidency.

Havelange faces the possibility of European opposition when he stands for re-election at the FIFA congress in Chicago in June.

## Olajuwon's big 4th quarter leads Rockets to victory

HOUSTON, TEXAS (R) — Hakeem Olajuwon scored 20 of his 37 points in the fourth quarter and grabbed 19 rebounds to lead the Houston Rockets to a 98-93 win over the Utah Jazz Saturday.

The win was the seventh in eight games for the Midwest Division-leading Rockets, while Utah suffered its sixth straight road loss.

Houston's Vernon Maxwell returned to the lineup after missing two games with a sprained knee and finished with 20 points. Rookie Sam Cassell chipped in a season-high 19.

Karl Malone led Utah with 23 points and 11 rebounds. John Stockton added 17 points for the Jazz.

Houston closed the third quarter with a 12-2 run to take a 60-51 lead and Olajuwon dominated the final quarter, scoring 20 of Houston's 38 points.

In Chicago, Scottie Pippen scored 20 points and Scott Williams blocked a layup attempt by Derrick McKey at the buzzer as the Bulls squeaked past the Indiana Pacers 90-88.

Horace Grant added 13 points and 10 rebounds for the Bulls, who beat Indiana for the 10th time in their last 11 meetings.

The Pacers dropped into eighth place in the Eastern Conference, one game behind New Jersey.

In Oakland, David Robinson scored 29 points and Dennis Rodman grabbed 25 rebounds to power the San Antonio Spurs to a 112-101 triumph over the Golden State Warriors, snapping their 10-game home winning streak.

Terry Cummings netted a season-high 22 points and Negele Knight added 21 for the Spurs, who have won four of their last five games.



Miami Heat's Grant Long gets the rebound while Atlanta Hawks' John Koncak (right) tries to defend in the first quarter of their match (APF photo)

their last five games.

In Atlanta, Mookie Blaylock recorded his second career triple-double and Stacey Augmon scored 25 points to lead the Atlanta Hawks to a 100-90 win over the Miami Heat.

At Washington, Armon Gilliam's short hook shot with 16 seconds remaining gave New Jersey its first lead as the Nets rallied from a 17-point third-quarter deficit to beat the Bulls 103-100.

The loss was the eighth in a row for the struggling Bulls.

Derrick Coleman led New Jersey with 24 points and 11 rebounds, while Gilliam finished with 21 points and nine rebounds. Washington's Rex Chapman led all scorers with 25.

Washington led 77-60 with 7:23 left in the third quarter when the Nets went on a 11-0 run to close the gap.

The Nets outscored the Bulls from the foul line 31-11. In Charlotte, Alonzo Mourning scored 26 points to lead eight of his teammates in double figures as the Hornets beat the Los Angeles Clippers 121-109.

In Denver, Dikembe Mutombo scored a season-high 27 points and grabbed 19 rebounds to lead the Nuggets to a 112-101 victory over the woeful Dallas Mavericks.

In Seattle, Detlef Schrempf scored 23 points to lead five players in double figures as the SuperSonics beat the Minnesota Timberwolves 113-93.

## Kocinski wins Australia Grand Prix

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — After years of struggling to match the dominant Japanese factory teams, Cagiva has emerged as a serious threat in the 1994 World 500cc Motorcycle championship.

John Kocinski of the United States dominated from start to finish on his Italian-made Cagiva and scored an impressive victory in Sunday's season-opening Australian Grand Prix.

Kocinski covered 30 laps of the 3.93-kilometre Eastern Creek Circuit, a total of 117.90 kilometres in 46 minutes, 10.346 seconds.

Luca Cadalora of Italy was second on a Yamaha with Australian Michael Doohan third on a Honda.

Defending world champion

Kevin Schwantz of the United States was fourth on his lucky Suzuki, followed by Shinya Itoh of Japan on a Honda and Alex Criville of Spain, also on a Honda.

Kocinski averaged 153.208 KPH in winning the fourth 500cc Grand Prix of his career and his second in only five outings with Cagiva. He also won nine 250cc races.

Pole-sitter Kocinski's triumph capped a superb day for Italian constructors with Aprilia riders taking both the 250cc and 125cc races.

Kocinski's win followed his victory for Cagiva in last year's United States Grand Prix at Laguna Seca, Calif., and he predicted the team will continue to improve.

"We'll get better. You'd better believe it," he said.

Kocinski finished 6.79 seconds ahead of Cadalora, who said his bike was not fast enough in the opening laps. Cadalora overtook Doohan on the 13th lap but could not haul in the leader.

Schwantz finished the race despite having to wear a cast on his left arm, which he broke three weeks ago.

"Considering it was only three weeks ago that I had surgery, I'm not in such bad shape," he said. "The arm was getting tired, but it wasn't a big problem."

Rising star Massimiliano Biaggi earlier overtook fellow Italian and pole-sitter Loris Capirossi on the final lap to win a thrilling 250cc race.

## U.S. sweeps India 5-0 in their Davis Cup tie

NEW DELHI, India (Agencies) — The United States completed a 5-0 sweep against India Sunday to set up a second round Davis Cup meeting against the Netherlands next July.

Jim Courier lost a first set tiebreak but came back to defeat India's Leander Paes 6-7 (7-5), 6-1, 6-4 on the grass court of the Delhi Tennis Association.

Todd Martin later beat Zeeshan Ali 6-2, 7-5.

Courier and Martin also won their singles matches Friday, and Patrick McEnroe and Richey Reneberg nailed down the first-round victory Saturday by beating Paes and Gaurav Natekar.

With the series already decided, Sunday's singles were reduced to best-of-3.

"It's good to get this tie under my belt," said Courier, playing his first Davis Cup since 1992. Martin said: "We did about as well as we could have."

The second round will be played in Holland in July, two weeks after Wimbledon. U.S. captain Tom Gullikson said Courier and Pete Sampras promised to be available, and "that can't be a bad start."

India must win a qualifying match next September to avoid relegation from the world group in 1995.

Indian captain Jaideep Mukherjee said the series was closer than the 5-0 score would indicate, and he was happy his players had taken sets off the Americans. "You guys said it would be a washout," he told Indian sports writers.

### Spain ousts Italy

In Madrid, Sergi Bruguera gave Spain a first-round Davis Cup win over Italy with a five-set come-from-behind victory over Stefano Pescosolido.

Bruguera won the opener 6-4, then lost the next sets 1-6 and 0-6. He rebounded in the final sets, 6-2 and 6-3, to gain Spain a 3-1 edge over Italy and guarantee a spot in the quarterfinals.

In the fifth-set with Bruguera up 5-3, the Spaniard got into a shouting match with a line judge over a call. The Spanish team was fined \$1,000 for the outburst, said match spokesman Miguel Luengo. He said team — and not Bruguera — would be assessed the fine.

In the final pairing, Alberto Berasategui of Spain defeated Italy's Andrea Gaudenzi 7-5, 6-3 to give Spain its 4-1 winning edge. Berasategui replaced an injured Carlos Costa.

### France beats Hungary

In Besancon, France, Arnaud Boetsch beat Jozsef Krocso of Hungary, 6-3, 6-3, 6-1 to give France the winning point in the world group Davis Cup match Sunday.

Boetsch's 1-hour, 52-minute victory put France ahead 3-1 in the contest and put it in the second round against Sweden in France in July.

Boetsch had a hand in all three points that France has won so far. On Friday he was a straight set winner over Sandor Nasyly. Then Saturday he teamed with Olivier Delaite to win the doubles. That was a key point for France as on Friday Henri Leconte lost to Krocso, a 25-year-old ranked just 179th in the world.

### Sweden beats Denmark

In Lund Saturday, Sweden's Jan Apell and Jonas Bjorkman, making their Davis Cup doubles debut, overhauled strong Danish opponents to give the Swedes a winning 3-0 lead.

The Swedes struggled through five sets, including three tie-breaks and only the fading strength of Denmark's power server Kenneth Karlsson let them grab victory.

But their 6-7 7-6 2-6 6-2 win sealed and expected victory for Sweden.

## Rovers close on United

LONDON (APF) — Blackburn Rovers went within three points of English league leaders Manchester United after overcoming a shock goal by Jan Fjortoft for bottom side Swindon.

The Norwegian who scored in last week's 2-2 draw against Manchester United, lobbed a ball over England goalkeeper Tim Flowers from 30 yards in the fourth minute. But then Rovers got into gear to step up their challenge for the premiership title.

Two minutes after Fjortoft's cheeky strike, Alan Shearer broke free of his marker to score an equaliser. By half-time Blackburn were two up through Tim Sherwood.

Blackburn missed a handful of second-half chances but Shearer got his second goal — and 30th of the season — from the penalty spot in the 82nd minute to give his side a comfortable 3-1 win.

In another match, Paul Merson took Arsenal into third place with the winning goal against Liverpool after having one attempt turned down.

Merson, who got the late equaliser against Manchester United in midweek had the ball in the net just before the half-time break. But that was cancelled out for offside. Merson was on target to give the European Cup Winners' Cup semi-finalists a 1-0 win.

Steve Sedgley was the hero of Tottenham Hotspur's first league win of 1994. The Spurs striker scored in the second half of the four-goal struggle at Everton.

Everton's new £1.6 million signing Anders Limpar could have equalised in the dying seconds but the Swedish winger's shot was tipped just over the bar and the Liverpool side have now been pushed into the end of season relegation struggle.

Chelsea jumped above Everton by winning their London derby with West Ham United 2-0. Darren Bernard in the first half and player manager Glenn Hoddle, in the second, were the scorers.

Sean Flynn ended Coventry's six hour run without a goal in a 2-1 win over Norwich City.

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSHI  
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#### WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠AKT ♣QJ83 ♢Q86 ♠A76  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
Pass 1 ♣ Pass Pass  
1 ♣ 2 ♣ ?  
What do you bid now?

Q.2—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠AQJ43 ♣7 ♢AK865 ♠A4  
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one heart. What action do you take?

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠KQJ6 ♣83 ♢K864 ♠943  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 NT Pass 2 ♣ Pass  
2 ♣ ?  
What action do you take?

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠AK5 ♣Q643 ♢8 ♠109873  
Partner opens the bidding with two no trump. What do you respond?

Q.5—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠QJ1085 ♣Vold ♢AK983 ♠Q86  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♣ 1 NT Pass 3 NT  
?  
What action do you take?

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	<b>INDECENT PROPOSAL</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Holly Floria & Alicia Anne in <b>BIKINI ISLAND</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	<b>CONCORD '1'</b> <b>DEMOLITION MAN</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 <b>CONCORD '2'</b> <b>THE FUGITIVE</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:15	<b>Opening Soon</b> <b>A political comedy</b> <b>Forbidden X Forbidden</b>	Watch for the surprise — The next play...	Since the actors are abroad the theatre is closed. It will re-open on April 6, 1994 for two weeks in the last performances of: "Arab Summit Conference"

## Particle sleuth might turn up a Nobel Prize

By Barry James

GENEVA — Using the world's most massive scientific instrument, Daniel Froidevaux plans to stalk the top quark, sparticles (the universe may be largely made of them), the Higgs boson and other members of the strange bestiary of particles that abounded when the universe was a blink old.

Mr. Froidevaux, 39, is a key member of the team building the massive Atlas particle detector at the European Laboratory for Particle Physics in Geneva. When completed, eight to 10 years from now, it will be used to probe the universe of a second after what most scientists believe was the creative Big Bang.

Searching for elements made in a particle collider and observing how they behave may help answer some of the deepest questions known to philosophy and science: Why does the universe consist of something rather than nothing? What makes particles, atoms and molecules cling together and create the objects of the familiar world? How do objects attract other objects at a distance — nuclei, electrons, stars, planets?

The Swiss-born Mr. Froidevaux is a senior experimental physicist at the 19-nation laboratory, which is known by its French initials, CERN. He can expect to spend the rest of his career on preparing the detector and then carrying out the experiments that will prove or disprove many of the exotic concepts floating around in contemporary theoretical physics.

Success could earn him and his colleagues a place in the history of science, perhaps a Nobel Prize. Detecting the Higgs boson, for example, "would be one of the most important breakthroughs in the history of physics," according to the magazine *Scientific American*.

**"The Higgs boson is thought to account for a hypothetical field or force that gives particles their mass: a kind of cosmic glue that holds everything together."**

But experimental science is a step into the unknown, and Mr. Froidevaux is aware that the search may prove fruitless. "Sometimes you give 10 years of your life to a project and nothing new is found," he says. "You do some nice physics, but you don't find that little spark that really motivates people."

The Higgs boson — a boson is a particle that conveys a force — is a key missing link in the Standard Model, by which physicists attempt to describe all subatomic particles and the interactions among them. "It is necessary for the mathematical consistency of the Standard Model and, in that sense, it is a pretty firm prediction," says the man who first postulated its existence, Peter Higgs, a British theorist.

The Higgs boson is thought to account for a hypothetical field or force that gives particles their mass: a kind of cosmic glue that holds everything together. "If the Higgs boson is found in the year 2005, one can surely imagine that people in 2050 will look back and see it as one of the milestones in the advance of knowledge," Mr. Froidevaux says.

The decision by the United States last year to abandon its \$11 billion Superconducting Super Collider in Texas makes it highly likely that the Higgs boson, if it exists, will be detected first at CERN's campus-like site on the Swiss-French frontier.

To probe closer to the beginnings of space and time, the European laboratory is planning to build a proton smasher known as the Large Hadron Collider, of which the Atlas detector will be one of the key elements.

Protons are heavy particles, packed with components known as quarks, that exist with neutrons at the heart of every atom. Five varieties of "flavours" of quark have been detected, but a hypothetical top quark still is needed to fill another gap in the Standard Model.

By using enough electricity to power a small city, scientists will accelerate protons almost to the speed of light and smash them together in the hope of creating, in a microcosm the

enormous energy that existed a few billionths of a second after the Big Bang.

Mr. Froidevaux compared the act of smashing protons to hurling watches together and studying the debris to figure out how they work. The 6,000-tonne, six-story-high Atlas detector will observe the ghostly echoes of the collisions as some 40 million protons fly apart each second, scattering quarks and other elements. These may include mysterious supersymmetric particles, or sparticles, that some scientists believe may make up the hidden "dark matter" that forms more than 90 per cent of the universe.

Each year, Mr. Froidevaux said, there will be perhaps one million billion collisions, of which only a few hundred will be potentially interesting enough to require further study. As though they were sifting specks of gold from a sandy beach, computers will select the most significant collisions, or "events," as they occur and store the data for analysis.

With more than 1,000 people working on the detector, Mr. Froidevaux views the project as a "dinosaur" that keeps him late at his desk and involves him in endless meetings. He escapes by reading science fiction novels, which he brings back by the box from the United States whenever he visits his brother near Los Angeles. He also enjoys going to the theatre, skiing and listening to music (he studied the violin for 11 years, but plays it no longer).

In addition, he usually finds time to read the French sports newspaper *L'Equipe*, which his companion, Sylvie, also a physicist, "thinks is a vice of some sort." Mr. Froidevaux is interested particularly in skiing but follows most sports, possibly because of his education in the United States and England in addition to France. The son of a Greek mother and Swiss

father, he went to school in Oxford and in Berkeley, California, where his father was a research student, before the family settled near Paris in 1964.

A relaxed and informal man who resembles a graduate student more than a senior scientist, Mr. Froidevaux came to his field through the prestigious Ecole Polytechnique in Paris and advanced studies in nuclear and particle physics.

Despite the deep philosophical questions raised by his work, he has little patience for the excessively abstract. He decided early in his career to become an experimental scientist, a tinkerer on a monumental scale.

Physics thrives on competition between theory and experimental observation. Experimenters like Mr. Froidevaux are always hoping to "find something that the theorists have not foreseen."

"It would be nice to catch them off guard and give them some work to do," he said, turning from a display of equations on a computer display, which he was discussing with a colleague from Moscow in Russian, one of the seven languages he speaks.

The proton collider will use many existing facilities, including a 27-kilometre tunnel under the Jura mountains, the site of another collider. This will enable the Europeans to keep the cost of the new instrument to an estimated 2.3 billion Swiss francs (\$1.7 billion), according to CERN. In a time of economic recession, some ask if it is reasonable to spend such a sum on the quest for purely abstract knowledge.

Mr. Froidevaux thinks the money is well spent, believing that men can improve the world by improving their understanding of it.

"There is a deep belief among most physicists that 'useless' research is in fact very useful, maybe in the very long term," he says. "Maybe there will never be any practical applications for some of what we do here, but it is also true that a lot of practical everyday things we have in life nowadays come originally from pure research." International Herald Tribune.

## Is ulcer bacteria linked to cancer?

By Lawrence K. Altman

WASHINGTON — After a decade of fierce debate and much research, the once heretical view that stomach ulcers are an infection caused by a bacterium, *Helicobacter pylori*, and are curable with antimicrobial drugs, has prevailed. And now leading researchers are turning to the public health implications of *H. pylori*, including a link to stomach cancer.

Until this view of the cause of ulcers was endorsed in February by an independent panel of medical experts convened by the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, the theory and benefits of antimicrobial therapy were still considered unproven and radical. The panel also urged a drastic change in standard ulcer therapy: the addition of combinations of antimicrobial drugs to the usual ulcer regimen.

Since *H. pylori* is found only in humans, experts now talk about the potential elimination of most ulcers in the United States, if not the world, through antimicrobials and possibly a vaccine.

"No doubt, eradication will happen eventually," said Dr. David Y. Graham, a gastroenterologist and *H. pylori* expert at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Houston who is also chief of digestive diseases at Baylor College of Medicine.

Nevertheless, experts are concerned that antimicrobials may be prescribed improperly, creating drug-resistant *H. pylori* that would spread widely. Already such resistance has appeared on a small scale.

The precise chain of events that leads to stomach ulcers, and possibly cancer, is just one of many mysteries concerning *H. pylori*.

Studies have shown that *H. pylori* is common throughout the world and that the prevalence is greater in developing than in developed countries. Almost everywhere, *H. pylori* is more common among people in lower socioeconomic classes. But most perplexing is why so many people are infected

with *H. pylori* yet relatively few develop ulcers and stomach cancer.

One theory likens *H. pylori* to the bacterium that causes tuberculosis: for unknown reasons, many people are infected with the tubercle bacillus, but the lifetime risk of developing tuberculosis is about 10 per cent.

So-called stomach ulcers appear in two places. Duodenal ulcers, which develop in the first part of the small intestine, are more common than gastric ulcers, which are in the stomach. Virtually all patients with duodenal ulcers have evidence of *H. pylori* infection, and about 80 per cent of those with gastric ulcers harbour the organism.

The most convincing evidence for a causal association between ulcers and *H. pylori* infection comes from significant differences in rates of recurrence among ulcer patients who did and did not receive antimicrobials.

Among ulcer patients in whom *H. pylori* is eliminated and who do not take a drug that may cause gastrointestinal bleeding, like ibuprofen, the recurrence rate is less than 5 per cent after two years, Dr. Graham said.

For those who received standard therapy without antimicrobials — drugs to block acid production — and in whom *H. pylori* persisted, the recurrence rate is about 75 per cent.

Another mystery is why the incidence of stomach cancer has declined so drastically in recent decades. In the United States up to World War II, stomach cancer headed the list of cancer deaths in men and was third (behind cervix and breast) in women. Now it ranks sixth for both men and women.

Studies have found that the prevalence of *H. pylori* has also sharply declined. Among healthy Americans younger than 30 the incidence is about 10 per cent, but among those over 60 it approaches 60 per cent. Because *H. pylori* is believed to persist in the stomach for a lifetime, the data suggest that infection with *H. pylori* in

childhood has declined significantly over recent decades.

Perhaps as a result, ulcer rates, too, have declined in the United States in recent years.

Many suspect that the decline in the *H. pylori* infections may be linked to improved sanitation and hygiene.

Another theory has it that the widespread use of refrigerated foods has cut down on salt and other preservatives, which have been suggested to be carcinogens. But until the evidence for *H. pylori*, no one could point to a possible microbial cause.

There still is uncertainty about how *H. pylori* is transmitted. Because the bacterium can be found in feces, the assumption is that person-to-person trans-

mission is important. But whether *H. pylori* spreads through contamination of food and water, and how often, are not known. Experts are also intensifying efforts to gather stronger evidence that *H. pylori* plays a crucial role in causing stomach cancer.

Three studies have indicated that those infected with *H. pylori* had about four times greater risk of developing stomach cancer. But other studies, which some critics say were not as sound methodologically, did not find that connection.

In other studies, researchers in England and Germany have reported startling evidence in more than 15 patients that a rare form of stomach cancer, a lymphoma known as MALT,

virtually disappears after antimicrobial therapy for *H. pylori*. Dr. Graham said his team has had similar results with four patients in Houston.

*H. pylori* apparently promotes growth of MALT cancer cells indirectly, a team in London headed by Dr. Peter G. Isaacson has reported in *The Lancet*. The bacterium stimulates T cells in the immune system to produce substances called cytokines, particularly one known as IL-2.

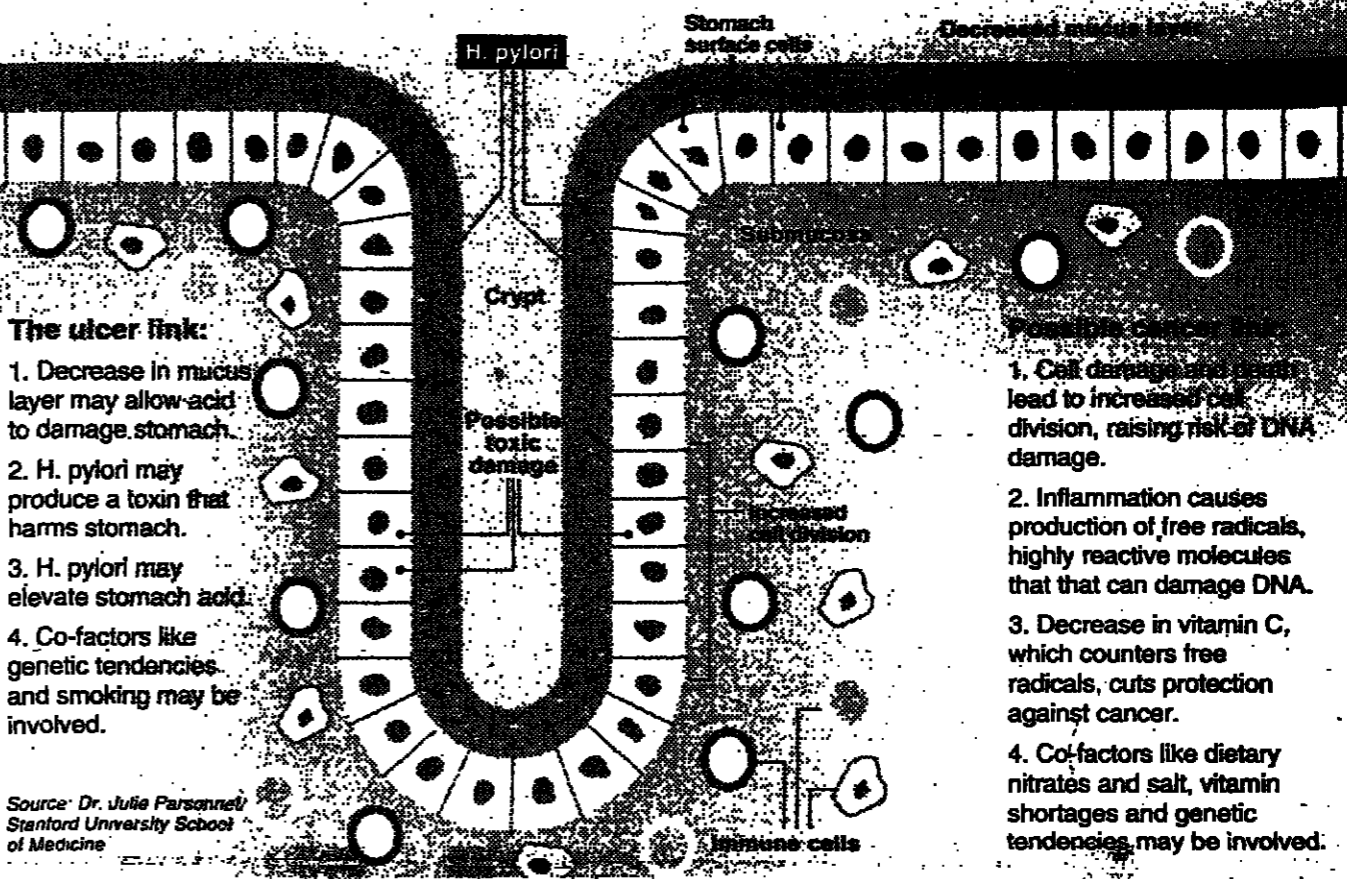
It takes years for stomach cancer to develop. Thus additional research is required to determine how soon an individual would need to take antimicrobial therapy to prevent stomach cancer.

The proportion of stomach cancers related to *H. pylori* is not clear, but it could turn out to be a significant number. At most, *H. pylori* would account for 60 to 80 per cent of stomach cancers, Dr. Pentti Sipponen of Jorvi Hospital in Espoo, Finland, told the panel.

If future studies prove a cause-and-effect connection, stomach cancer would be the first malignancy that could be prevented by treating a chronic bacterial infection that is a precursor to the tumor. Scientists have identified liver and bladder cancers that can be avoided if viral (hepatitis B) and parasitic (small fever) infections are prevented — *New York Times*.

### Theories of a Rogue Bacterium's Role in Disease

Damage resulting from infection by the corkscrew-shaped microbe *Helicobacter pylori* is emerging as a key link in the mysterious chain of events that produces ulcers. Scientists suspect it also helps cause stomach cancer: *H. pylori* lurks in the mucus layer produced by the cells lining the stomach and its crypts. Undereath is the submucosa, which becomes inflamed by immune cells called in to attack *H. pylori*.



## Egyptian judge turns advocate of liberal Islam

By Jonathan Wright  
Reuters

CAIRO — A leading advocate of liberal Islam in Egypt looks an unlikely candidate for the hazardous role he has chosen.

A rotund and jovial bachelor aged 61, Mohammad Said Al Ashmawi could have rested on his laurels after 40 years of service to the Egyptian establishment, starting as an assistant district attorney and ending with the rank of chief justice.

But the judge says he has a mission and since his retirement from the bench last July he can give it more of his attention.

"I am ready to sacrifice myself for a humanitarian goal, to remove religious conflicts," he told Reuters.

"Because we are coming to some kind of religious wars in the Middle East and it could spread to Europe and the

United States, it may not be a traditional war. It may take the form of terrorism," he added.

Mr. Ashmawi's solution is a complete overhaul of most of the accretions which Islam has acquired over the years since the religion sprang up in 7th century Arabia.

For his daring traditional Muslims have declared him an apostate and have had some of his books banned. He dare not set foot in Saudi Arabia for fear of arrest.

Guards, provided by the Egyptian government 24 hours a day, visit visitors to his cluttered Cairo apartment.

The main target of Mr. Ashmawi's barrage of recent books is the Muslim militants who believe along with many ordinary Muslims that Islam includes a complete political and economic theory.

"Islam now is in a dilemma," says Mr. Ashmawi. "If you accept the tradi-

tional ideas, you will be at odds with all the world, with civilisation and humanity."

"But if you reject the traditional ideas, simple Muslims will feel a spiritual vacuum," he adds.

The compromise is not only convenient, it is also correct, he says. "Out of the 6,000 verses in the Koran, only 80 deal with legal matters, mostly family and inheritance law, and these are applied in Egypt today. The rest of what is called Sharia (Islamic law) is just jurisprudence and it is man-made, so it can be changed as times change," he explained.

Mr. Ashmawi has also turned on its head one of the cardinal principles of the conservative Muslim lawyers, that a Koranic text applies across the board, not just to

the context in which it was revealed to the Prophet Mohammad.

"I reversed this. We should be contextualists... Then all the old slogans of the militants and their preachers will collapse," he said.

Mr. Ashmawi came to his conclusions after the late president Anwar Sadat asked him to help codify Islamic law to comply with a constitution that named Sharia as a main source of law.

Committees of religious lawyers were working on the project when Muslim militants assassinated Sadat in 1981.

"I found that their aim was to change the vocabulary of the law and make it a theocratic system. That would have led to a very

important conclusion, that the courts would have no right to interpret the law, only religious people," he said.

When he put his ideas into his book "The Roots of Islamic Law" in 1979, the head of the conservative Muslim Brotherhood accused him of inventing a new religion and said he should be stopped from talking by and means.

One year later he crossed swords with the minister of Awqaf (religious endowments) for using a Koranic text to argue that Muslims and non-Muslims were equal. The minister declared him an apostate, implicitly legitimising his execution by the government. Mr. Ashmawi continued to progress up the legal hierarchy until he became

chief justice in the High Criminal Court and the Supreme State Security Court.

Now retired, he can safely criticise his old masters too, for the way they are dealing with the campaign of political violence that Muslim militants launched two years ago.

"The government is not handling the situation very correctly," he said. "They are treating them (the militants) as regular criminals. They are not aware of how to reform Islam."

"The government is trying to be more Muslim than the militants and the situation is going from worse to worse." "President (Hosni) Mubarak is a compromiser and in fact it is not his duty to reform Islam. But at least he should give others a chance," he added.

## With multiracial elections, South Africa prepares for new role

By Tom Cohen  
The Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — A seat on the U.N. Security Council. Diplomatic and commercial relations with former enemies. Resuscitating a continent.

Such visions fill the heads of South African leaders as the country prepares to shed its pariah status by holding its first multiracial elections.

Both the African National Congress and the ruling National Party, expected to finish first and second in the voting April 26-28, want to exploit the goodwill accompanying the end of apartheid. Their common goals are to revive the economy, forge links with neighbours and promote regional progress.

If the new South Africa stumbles, their leaders say, sub-Saharan Africa may lose its best, and perhaps last, chance to emerge from a post-colonial legacy of despotism, squalor and warfare.

"It is as if the whole world wishes Africa to produce a success story," said Roelof "Pik" Botha, foreign minister in the white-minority government for nearly 17 years. "If we do not produce the success story here, I can only see darkness."

The whole region will become poorer and drift into chaos. After decades of isolation within the United Nations

called crimes against humanity, South Africa finally has the opportunity to realise its potential.

A powerful military, advanced technology and the strongest economy in the region give it unique advantages within Africa. Internationally, South Africa meets the criteria for consideration as a permanent member of an expanded Security Council, U.N. special representative Lakshmi Bhambhani said recently.

Under white rule, South Africa could not fully exploit its resources. It became a hydra-like nation, held back by the various heads snapping at each other and the isolation caused by sanctions against its racial policies.

Even as the world's leading producer of gold and platinum, with the best infrastructure in Africa, it could not achieve economic growth in the past five years.

The ANC and National Party want to forge a southern Africa trading bloc capable of competing with those in Europe, the Far East and America.

"Previously there was an illusion that South Africa was a European outpost in Africa," said Aziz Pahad, an ANC foreign-policy official. "Our future, as well as the region's future, is very, very dependent on interdependency."

Obstacles abound. Even with a smooth transition to

black rule after the election, South Africa faces the staggering cost of providing blacks with housing, education and other necessities that were neglected for generations.

"There's so many domestic requirements to take care of that South Africa's impact on the rest of the continent is not going to be dramatic overnight," said Princeton Lyman, the U.S. ambassador.

In four decades of apartheid, foreign policy concentrated on overcoming the isolation imposed from outside and combating the spread of Soviet-inspired socialism in Southern Africa.

South Africa supported anti-Marxist rebels in Mozambique and Angola, impeded trade so neighbours would have to rely on its goods and attacked anti-apartheid guerrillas in neighbouring countries. Such activities cost the region \$62 billion in lost economic output in 1980-88, a U.N. study estimated.

Things began to change when President F.W. de Klerk accelerated reforms after taking office in 1983. Virtually all international sanctions have been lifted; global diplomatic and financial links are being reestablished; South Africa and its neighbours cooperate instead of fight.

Drought-ravaged Zimbabwe and Zambia felt the benefit in 1992 when South Africa used

its ports and railways to get food and other supplies to them.

This year, Mr. De Klerk and ANC leader Nelson Mandela attended a regional summit in Botswana to resolve an army mutiny in Lesotho. It was South Africa's first venture into a purely African diplomatic effort.

South Africa has dismantled its small nuclear arsenal and signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. At the end of February, it ceded to Namibia the port of Walvis Bay, the continent's last colony, which had been in South African hands for 84 years.

ANC policy says the new South Africa should resist "all pressure to become the 'regional power' at the expense of other nations," seeking instead "to create a new form of economic interaction in Southern Africa based on principles of mutual benefit and interdependence."

Nonetheless, critics suspect the ANC wants absolute power in the region.

"There will be no regional cooperation; the only basis on which it will be established will be dependency," said Colin Vale, a former diplomat who has advised conservative groups opposed to the ANC. Mr. Botha fears the ANC has innate socialist tendencies that could destroy the economy.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Yemeni troops return south

ADEN (R) — Southern leaders in Yemen, having agreed to patch up a rift with northern rivals, will reintegrate into their army 5,000 southern soldiers who have returned home after serving in the north, political sources said. The men would form three new brigades in the southern forces, which remain separate from the northern armies four years after the 1990 merger of North and South Yemen, the sources added on Sunday. They were among 6,000 southern troops who fled north in 1986 after bloody clashes between rival factions of the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP), which ruled South Yemen at the time and is now part of united Yemen's ruling coalition. The sources said the defectors had been gradually returning to the south over the past few weeks after clashing with northern forces.

## Lebanon to prosecute two newspapers

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon, which has already banned private news broadcasts, will prosecute two newspapers for publishing "false reports" on the investigations into last month's church bombing. Beirut Radio said Sunday. It said the general prosecutor would begin on Monday a legal process to prosecute Al Safir and Al Diyahr dailies for publishing untrue information related to the investigations into the Feb. 27 church bombing that killed 10 worshippers. The pro-Syrian Al Safir daily reported on Saturday parts of the alleged interrogation of Fouad Malek, the second man in command of the banned Lebanese Forces (LF) group who was arrested last week for alleged links to the bombing. The rightist Al Diyahr reported on Sunday that Mr. Malek was beaten up after his arrest, a charge the radio, quoting judicial sources, categorically denied.

## Spain's longest kidnapping ends

GRANOLLERS (AP) — Spain's longest kidnap drama ended early Sunday when pharmacist Maria Angeles Feliu Bassols wandered into a highway filling station, a free woman after 16 months in captivity. Mr. Feliu Bassols, a 33-year-old mother of three young children, was abducted on Nov. 20, 1992, from her home in the northeastern town of Olot, 65 kilometres from where she was released by her captors. "I never thought something like this could happen to me, but all of us are exposed to the possibility," she told reporters outside her house. "What I missed most was my family, my children... I barely recognised them." During the course of her kidnapping, there were ransom demands, then reports that she had been killed by her abductors. Two suspects were in police custody but had not been tried. A family spokesman told the private Europa press news agency that no ransom had been paid for her release.

## UAE prefers negotiation with Iran

CAIRO (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) said on Sunday that it preferred bilateral negotiations with Iran over three disputed islands and that international arbitration was only a last resort. UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan was quoted last week as saying that arbitration by the International Court of Justice in the Hague was the best solution. But UAE Foreign Minister Rashid Abdullah Al Nuzaimi said on Sunday: "We want to try bilateral relations first and negotiations on the regional and international levels... the court is a resort if these efforts do not meet with success." The UAE had sent Iran what he called "an initiative... towards negotiations" and was awaiting a reply, he added. "We again insist that Iran respond by accepting the principle of negotiations to solve this problem," he added. He was speaking to reporters after meeting Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo.

## Kuwait's veiled drivers face tough penalties

KUWAIT (R) — Women who veil their faces while driving and Arab men who wrap their headgear to mask their faces are a menace on the roads of Kuwait and should face tough penalties, the emirate's road regulators have proposed. "Veiled or masked drivers will have their licences revoked for at least a month in addition to having their vehicles impounded," the English-language Arab Times quoted a higher traffic control proposal as saying. Such drivers at present are subject to court fines. The council cited an increase in car accidents due to what it called the handicapping of drivers' vision by headgear. It also cited unspecified security concerns, the paper said. In contrast with more traditional societies elsewhere in the Gulf, many Kuwaiti women drivers are unveiled. Kuwaiti men occasionally wrap their traditional headscarves around their faces, especially to keep out the dust during sandstorms.

## Kuwait to build seismic station

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait has decided in principle to build a 150,000 dinar (\$305,000) seismic station to measure earth tremors, a newspaper reported on Sunday. "I believe it is very important that Kuwait builds such a station," the English-language Arab Times quoted Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) official Dhari Al Ajmi as saying. "In principle it (the project) has already been approved." Mr. Ajmi, director of state-owned KISR's environmental and earth sciences division, said the station's research would help builders improve the safety of buildings. Kuwait has occasional earth tremors. Kuwaiti scientists have said earthquakes are a possibility in the Gulf region.

## Italians cynical about chances for change

REGGIO CALABRIA, Italy (R) — Italians voted on Sunday in elections billed as the end of the corrupt old guard and the start of a bright new future, but many remained cynical about the chances of real change.

"People are voting for change, but it won't happen. There is still too much entrenched political power for things to change," said advertising agent Teresa Anadolagine as she voted in Rome.

The general elections cap a peaceful revolution which has swept away a 45-year Christian-Democrat-led power monopoly after a vast corruption scandal.

The two-day elections are a battle between a leftist bloc headed by the ex-communist Democratic Party of the Left (PDS) and tycoon Silvio Berlusconi's right-wing Freedom Alliance.

In the Mafia-infested southern town of Reggio Calabria, where 1,000 soldiers guarded the streets, unemployed university graduate Barbara Labate told Reuters:

"These elections won't change a thing. I'm voting for the PDS but I don't have many hopes, because so many of the new faces have nothing new about them. Berlusconi grew rich under the old system."

A woman in the northern financial capital of Milan echoed this view. "There's no-



Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti Sunday casts his vote in one of Rome's polling stations in Italy's general elections (AFP photo)

thing new about these elections, just the voting system," said Anna Maria, 38.

"We were promised something new but instead we are getting the old right wing — people who have not been tested since the days of fascist dictator Benito Mussolini," she said.

She refused to give her full name. "If the right win, they'll shoot me," she said.

Rome doctor Antonio Morera, 72, said: "I just hope

we'll get rid of a generation of crooked politicians who have run an anti-social government for the past 45 years."

In the picturesque hilltop village of Isola Farnese north of Rome, Carla Santori, 45, was on her way to vote still clutching olive branches, after attending a Palm Sunday mass.

She said she would vote for Mr. Berlusconi's Forza Italia party.

"Silvio Berlusconi is a fresh face and he's got good ideas.

His lack of ties with the old political system are a big vote catcher."

Federico Marzetti, 52, said in Isola Farnese: "I voted for Forza Italia because the country desperately needs a new political party."

"Berlusconi is a clean person with a nice, sweet face," said Pina Gizzi, 55, shivering in the morning chill. "He's also the only politician not to be involved in the political scandal."

But Gina Pace, 67, said she voted for the neo-fascist National Alliance that is allied to Mr. Berlusconi. "We Italians are tired. My husband and I can hardly get by on our pension. We are hoping the right will save this country."

Milanese pensioner Luciana Mengi thought Italy was better off before World War II, when Mr. Mussolini ruled.

"Things were better before the war, when things were supposed to be worse. At least there was order and women stayed at home doing the cooking... now what do we have? Hundreds of parties, promises and debts," she said.

In Reggio Calabria, part of the economically depressed south, student Mariella Poeta, 19, said: "Here the main problem is lack of jobs. What we need are more facts and less words... we mustn't have another 50 years of the same people in power."

## Egyptians held in Denmark probed in New York blast

COPENHAGEN (AP) — Danish police and the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) investigated three Egyptians with possible links to last year's bombing of the World Trade Centre in the United States, a police spokesman said Sunday.

Villy Sorensen, deputy chief of police in Aarhus where the Egyptians lived, said authorities found in one of the Egyptians' home the names, addresses and telephones of persons in the United States.

Among those were details on "one of the four convicted in the World Trade Centre case," he told the Associated Press. He declined to name the individual.

Four people were convicted March 4 for plotting and carrying out the bombing of the trade centre in New York. They face life in prison without parole at their May 4 sentencing.

FBI agents came to Denmark two weeks ago and stayed for two days "to help us," Mr. Sorensen said. "We thought what we had could be interesting." In connection with the Feb. 26, 1993, blast in the twin-tower office complex, he said, six people were killed and more than 1,000 injured in the explosion.

Mr. Sorensen said two of the three Egyptians have been members of the Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah, an Egyptian group outlawed in Egypt. A Danish court has banned the publication of the men's identities.

One of Egyptians is "an expert in making bombs," Mr. Sorensen said. He declined to elaborate.

He also refused to comment on a report in Sunday's edition of the Aarhus Stiftstidende

newspaper that Danish police had found about one kilogramme of mercury. U.S. investigators found chemicals including mercury were used to mix the explosives which crippled the trade centre.

Last November, the three Egyptians were arrested in Aarhus in western Denmark and charged with setting a Jordanian national's home in Denmark on fire. No one was injured in the blaze.

Danish investigators also found in one of the men's apartment a list of chemicals used to produce explosives and marked maps of Copenhagen and Aarhus, the country's second largest town.

Charges against the men were expanded later to include an "attempt to carry out attacks" in Denmark, said Mr. Sorensen, the public prosecutor in the case. If found guilty on the latter charge, they suspects face life sentence.

"We concentrate on whether the charged persons committed crimes in Denmark. But it is also interesting to know what links these people might have with what happened in the United States," he said.

The three men were in Denmark on the day of the trade centre explosion. Mr. Sorensen added. He said he did not know whether they had been to New York before the blast.

Two of the men arrested here, aged 30 and 36, arrived in Denmark in November 1992 and sought political asylum because they were wanted in Egypt, Mr. Sorensen said.

The third Egyptian, a 41-year-old man with Danish and Egyptian citizenship, has been living in Denmark since the late 1980s on a permanent residence permit.

## Ruling bloc wins key Japanese elections

TOKYO (R) — Japan's ruling coalition scrapped home to victory in a closely watched regional election in central Japan on Sunday.

Coalition candidate Masanori Tanimoto, 48, beat off his nearest rival by less than 10,000 votes in Sunday's vote for a new governor for the Ishikawa prefecture.

With 99 per cent of the votes counted, Mr. Tanimoto, a former deputy governor, won 283,993 votes as against 275,863 for the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) candidate Hiroshi Ishikawa and 47,624 for a Communist Party candidate, the Ishikawa election commission said.

The vote was seen as a key pointer to whether Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's unwieldy eight-group coalition can resist electoral attacks by the LDP, ousted by Mr. Hosokawa after 38 years in power. It was the first visit to the polls for his government since he took office last August.

A general election in Japan could be called later this year. "During the campaign, I was not sure if I could win. I still don't believe the victory myself," Mr. Tanimoto said.

An official of Mr. Hosokawa's Japan New Party said: "This reflects public trust in the coalition government."

While the vote was for the prefectural governor, the campaign's focus was on whether Mr. Hosokawa's national government had benefitted the electorate.

## Thousands of Kurds defy German ban

BERLIN (AP) — Police turned water cannon on Kurds who got past checkpoints and into Mannheim by the thousands Sunday to mourn two women who took their own lives to protest German arm sales to Turkey.

Several hundred Kurdish protesters also briefly blocked border crossings into Belgium and Holland on Sunday morning, authorities said.

Police said they arrested at least 25 people in trying to prevent the banned protest march in Mannheim, which coincided with elections in Turkey, where Kurdish separatists have been waging a 10-year struggle for autonomy.

Some 7,000 Kurds nevertheless made it to the southwestern city, where police turned water cannon on them in a central square after they refused to disperse, said spokesman Dieter Botz.

The marches headed out of the city centre carrying their star-emblem a national liberation movement.

Police on the lookout for dark-skinned motorists had set up highway checkpoints across Germany in an attempt to thwart the demonstration.

They questioned 1,100 travellers at one Autobahn rest stop in Goettingen alone.

Buses entering Mannheim were searched and dozens of cars of suspected demonstrators turned away. Mr. Botz said more than 200 weapons were confiscated — mostly knives and clubs but no firearms.

Seven people were arrested at one checkpoint after police found gasoline cans in the van they were riding in, police said. Hundreds of police had also

prevented Kurds from rallying on Saturday in Cologne.

The Kurds are angered by the crackdown German authorities launched after Kurds blocked Autobahns across the country with burning-tyre barricades last week. The Kurds had hoped to pressure the Bonn government to stop military sales to Turkey and get Turkey to respect Kurdish rights.

But the protests backfired. Dozens of police were injured and many Germans were angered at what they considered abuse of their hospitality.

Instead of sympathy for the nine Kurds who set fire to themselves during the protests — including the two women — mourned Sunday, the actions reaped calls from German politicians to tighten asylum laws.

"Bonn will do well — to the extent that our law permits it — to immediately deport these criminals or put them before a court. Germany should not become a stage for the violent spillover of a foreign war," an editorial in the Welt Am Sonntag national newspaper said.

A minority of German politicians are calling on the Bonn government to pressure Turkey into easing its campaign against Kurdish militants, who claimed responsibility for a bomb blast in Istanbul on Sunday that injured three foreign tourists, one of them a German. German authorities announced the arrest Saturday of two Wiesbaden men accused of organising last week's protests, saying they were being held on suspicion of membership in a terrorist organisation.

## Clinton's brother weds

DALLAS, Texas (AFP) — President Bill Clinton's half-brother got married Saturday, just weeks before he is to become a father. Roger Clinton, 37, and Molly Martin, 25, were married in Dallas, Texas, by a minister who travelled down from the Clinton's home state of Arkansas. Best man Bill Clinton gave his nervous half-brother an encouraging squeeze of the hand as the heavily pregnant bride walked down the aisle. When Ms. Martin turned sideways to exchange vows, several people could be heard commenting on the dramatic bulge beneath her white wedding dress. "We had already decided to get married. The baby sort of sped things up," Roger Clinton told a radio interviewer. He and Ms. Martin, who works for a software company, have been living together for about a year in Redondo Beach, California.

Roger Clinton, a reformed drug addict and a would-be rock star, once spent a year in an Arkansas prison after then-Governor Bill Clinton approved an investigation into his half-brother's activities. Roger Clinton has always looked up to his older brother and the two are close. They grew up together with the same mother, Virginia Kelley.

Clinton's brother weds

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## 23 to go on trial in mid-April on subversion charges

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Twenty-three people charged with plotting and carrying out attacks aimed at destabilising internal security will be put on trial in mid-April, official sources said Sunday.

The sources said the case, which was supposed to have gone on trial before the military tribunal shortly after the Eid Al Fitr holiday this month, was delayed because the questioning of some of the suspects was not completed.

"The interrogations are continuing, and the charge sheet is being drawn up," said one source.

According to the source, the 23 suspects, all of whom are in detention, would be tried as one group charged with "plotting and carrying out terrorist activities and illegal possession of explosives."

The suspects were filtered from more than 40 people questioned after the Jan. 26 and Feb. 1 explosions at Amman's Rivoli and Zarga's Salwa movie theatres. Both theatres were showing pornographic movies and the blasts gave rise to suspicions

that religious zealots were behind them.

The sources said some of the suspects belonged to the so-called Arab Afghan group — volunteers from Arab countries who fought alongside Afghans in the 1980-90 battle against the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan — while others were locally recruited by them.

Asked whether it was established who financed the sabotage in Jordan, the source declined direct comment, but said that "all the suspects were guided by a single group... which sought to create chaos and undermine the internal security of the country."

Interior Minister Salameh Hammud told Parliament in February that authorities had uncovered a plot to destabilise Jordan through a series of attacks on theatres, video-cassette and liquor shops, nightclubs and security forces.

Yemeni government officials, who faced a spate of similar explosions in their country several months ago, have been quoted as saying that Osama Laden, a Saudi millionaire of Yemeni origin who supported the "Arab Afghans", was suspected to

have financed those who carried out the attacks in Yemen.

Mr. Laden, who has been disowned by his Saudi-based tribe and family, is believed to be living in Khartoum, Sudan. Reports in the Egyptian press have indicated him as a main supporter of extremist military groups waging a violent campaign to topple the government of President Hosni Mubarak.

There was no immediate confirmation or denial of whether the Jordanian investigators suspected Mr. Laden or any of his associates of involvement in the bombings in the Kingdom.

At least six of the suspects have confessed to have planted the explosive devices that went off at the Rivoli and Salwa theatres as well as others which were discovered at a supermarket outside Amman and the Zahran cinema, local reports said.

Arabic-language papers carried photographs of the suspects, all of whom appeared to be in their early 20s, accompanied by prosecutors and police officers, renouncing the planting of the bombs at these places after confessing during interrogations.

No background details were available on any of the suspects.

The sources said most of them are from lower middle class families and some of them would be charged as accessories before and after the crime.

It was not clear from the reports how many of the suspects knew each other. They were all said to have worked separately, as small groups, unaware of each other, under the guidance of one or more people.

According to the reports, one of the suspects, Mohammad Adarbeh, told interrogators that he tried and failed to plant a bomb at the Rivoli, in downtown Amman, one week before the Jan. 26 blast.

The device, described as a time-bomb that actually went off inside the theatre at midnight, was planted by another suspect, Yassin Zahra, the reports said. Seven people were injured in the blast.

The youth who planted the bomb which was discovered and defused at Amman's Zahran cinema was identified as Samir Ahmad, who told police that he was asked to plant the bomb by Mohammad Shehadeh, a construction material salesman from

the Beqaa refugee camp.

Mr. Ahmad was reported to have met Mr. Shehadeh, described as an Arab Afghan, in front of the Al Hussein Mosque in downtown Amman to inform him that he had planted the bomb inside the theatre.

Mr. Shehadeh, who is also under detention, was also implicated in the Zarga bombing by the man who confessed to have planted the device, Eid Jahaleen, a 30-year-old plumber from Beqaa.

Mr. Jahaleen lost his limbs in the explosion when the bomb exploded prematurely. His confession from his hospital bed is believed to have been the most significant breakthrough in the case.

The suspects also took interrogators to Akroush Supermarket in Safod, which straddles the main road between Amman and Beqaa camp, and reenacted the planting of the device which was discovered and defused there a few days before the Rivoli blast.

Mr. Zahra, the man who reportedly confessed to the Rivoli explosion, was also identified as the one who planted the bomb at the supermarket.

Another target of the sus-

pects was the sprawling Housing Bank complex in the heart of Amman, according to the reports.

Some of the suspects showed interrogators how "they used the joint to determine where to plant the bombs" but no explosives were actually placed in the complex.

Apart from Mr. Adarbeh, Mr. Zahra, Mr. Ahmad, Mr. Shehadeh and Mr. Jahaleen, other suspects identified by name included Hassan Hamdan and Suleiman Bieh.

All the bombs were said to have used crude technology widely employed by the Afghan rebels in their battle against the Red Army and Soviet-supported government soldiers in Afghanistan.

The bombing case is the second known organised sabotage attributed to "Arab Afghans" in Jordan.

In 1991, members of a group called "Jeish Mohammad (Mohammad's Army)" made up mostly of Afghan returnees were arrested following a series of attacks and foiled attempts against nightclubs, cinemas, liquor shops and security officers as well as government buildings and diplomatic missions.

Eighteen of them were

tried and convicted; eight of them, two in absentia, were given the death sentence, and others were jailed for terms ranging from two years to 15 years.

His Majesty King Hussein later commuted the death sentences to life imprisonment for the six who appeared in court.

In a Feb. 15 meeting with the members of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Upper House of Parliament, the King referred to the late spate of sabotage actions and said a "small group" with foreign links was responsible for them.

"There are certain parties and circles trying to reach and influence our youth who are in vulnerable positions," the King said.

The influenced youth, he said, "are goaded into committing crimes," and "the parties and circles seek to reach the weak and strong points of our people — our religion and faith."

"We have warned against such attempts to distort our faith and our Islam, and we have often called for action to prevent matters from getting out of hand or beyond reason," the King said.

## White House gets American chef

WASHINGTON (AFP) — An American chef will replace the former French chef at the White House, but he will not be serving up burgers and chips, sources said. Worried about the effects of all those rich French sauces, President Bill Clinton and his wife Hillary said an ex-revivor to chef Pierre Chambrin and began searching for an American replacement.

Their search has ended with 39-year-old Walter Scheib, head chef at West Virginia's Greenbrier Resort, a White House source said. The new chef will be in charge of formal state dinners as well as light family meals. "He is an excellent chef with sterling credentials," said one official. "He was offered the job pending final security and background checks."

Mr. Scheib honed his skills at the Culinary Institute of America and beat out a number of other chefs recently invited by the first lady to prepare small White House lunches.

White House gets American chef

White House gets American chef